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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The President, H. E. Mr. Asda Jayanama (Thailand) opened the meeting. As he had not been present at the first regular session 1999 of the Executive Board, he thanked those members of the Bureau who had chaired the meetings in his place. He looked forward to the Board's critical discussions relating to the multi-year funding frameworks for both UNDP and UNFPA, United Nations reform, ICPD+5, relationships with the Bretton Woods institutions, and the biennial budgets for 2000-2001 for both organizations.

2. The President stated that he counted on the Executive Board to tackle its tasks in a spirit of partnership, through open and transparent dialogue and the efficient and effective use of time. Meetings would begin on time and statements should be limited to the essential points. He looked forward to working closely with the Board members as well as with the Administrator and Executive Director.

3. The President informed the Executive Board that the Vice President representing the African Group, Mr. Aboubacar Dione (Guinea), had been appointed as Ambassador of his country to Libya and would soon be leaving New York. The Board then approved the nomination of Mr. Kwabena Osei-Danquah (Ghana) to replace Mr. Dione as Vice President representing the African Group. One delegation took the floor to congratulate Mr. Dione on his work as Vice President.

Agenda and work plan

4. The Secretary of the Executive Board provided information concerning the provisional agenda, annotations, list of documents and work plan for the session (DP/1999/L.2 and Corr.1). She noted that all documents were available in all languages except for document DP/1999/CRP.6, which would be distributed as soon as available. In going over the work plan, the Secretary informed the Board that an informal briefing by the UNDP Resident Representative on the Jaffna Programme in Sri Lanka would be held on 14 April, and an informal briefing on the Human Development Report 1999 would be held on 16 April. She noted that the secretariat had not received any request for a separate discussion of the one UNDP country cooperation framework and the one UNFPA country programme before the Executive Board for adoption at the present session.

5. The Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1999 (DP/1999/L.2 and Corr.1).

6. The Executive Board approved the report of the first regular session 1999 (DP/1999/8).

7. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 1999 and 2000, subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

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Annual session 1999: 14-23 June 1999 (New York)

Third regular session 1999: 13-17 September 1999

First regular session 2000: 24-28 January 2000

Second regular session 2000: 3-7 April 2000

Annual session 2000: 12-23 June 2000 (Geneva)

Third regular session 2000: 11-15 September 2000

The Executive Board agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the annual session 1999 of the Board, as listed in the work plan contained in annex I to decision 99/7.

UNDP/UNFPA segment

II. REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. UNDP

UNDP report

8. The Administrator introduced his report to the Economic and Social Council (DP/1999/10). He noted that the report had been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 53/192, 50/120, and 47/199, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1994/33 and 1998/27. UNDP had taken special care in preparing the report to address the new standards and requirements that the Executive Board had set in 1998, in particular those calling for a more analytical report indicating lessons learned and problems. In addition, the report included recommendations for action by the Economic and Social Council. An approach and format that was common to UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Food Programme, had been utilized, while allowing for each fund to highlight aspects that were particularly relevant to its areas of operation.

9. The Administrator reviewed the highlights of the report and then made brief remarks relating to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF).

10. With regard to UNDAF, the challenge would be twofold, he explained, to ensure a strategic and holistic framework. UNDAF was designed to bring greater coherence, collaboration, and effectiveness to the United Nations development efforts at the country level. The synthesis of agreements reached at the United Nations summits and conferences in the 1990s had laid the basis for a strong, legitimate vision of support to programme countries through UNDAF. All United Nations organizations had important roles to play in a team effort. A periodic update on the progress in pursuing United Nations reform proposals, prepared by the United Nations Development Group Office, was made available to the Executive Board.

11. The Administrator noted that with regard to the CDF, the approach based on country ownership should be distinguished from models that sought to weld the international community together into one unified monolithic force, which was not a healthy prospect; CDF should not be such an instrument. Experience had shown that the United Nations development effort, in its independent thinking, non-conditionality and country ownership, was very valuable. Development cooperation agencies should offer options to programme countries, and those countries could have legitimate concerns regarding the emergence of a tight coalition of all external partners.

12. The Administrator underlined that the purpose of the CDF should not be confused with that of UNDAF. The CDF should not be seen as superseding UNDAF, as the latter was designed to bring greater coherence, collaboration, and effectiveness to the United Nations development effort at the country level.

13. Work on the common country assessments (CCAs) and UNDAFs would continue as planned. The CCA/UNDAF process, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly, was designed to strengthen both the strategic value and coherence of United Nations development cooperation. The process should provide a solid foundation for United Nations country teams to engage in a dialogue with national partners and the World Bank on the CDF. Likewise, Governments could continue to encourage the World Bank to contribute to, and participate in, the CCA/UNDAF guidelines to be issued shortly. Finally, it was for Member States to decide what programming tools they wished to utilize and the role that they wanted the international community to play.

14. The Administrator briefed the Executive Board on the outcome of the first session of 1999 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which had included the approval of a guidance note prepared in the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) on the CCA/UNDAF process. The guidance note encouraged the enhanced involvement of specialized agencies in the process, including through their governing bodies.

Discussion

15. Many delegations took the floor to congratulate UNDP on its report, which they described as analytical, problem-oriented and very useful, in particular through its recommendations, to the discussions at the Economic and Social Council. The report fulfilled the provisions of General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Executive Board legislation, and could serve as a model for reporting to the Council by funds and programmes. The recommendations could be the subject of an informal discussion at the Council.

16. United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Many speakers addressed the role of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and UNDAF in furthering United Nations reform in the operational activities area, expressing strong support for the CCA/UNDAF process. One delegation emphasized that UNDG was an internal secretariat body with a limited substantive role. Continued collaboration at the inter-agency level was strongly emphasized, with speakers underlining the need for specialized agencies to participate in the UNDAF process. The recent decision by ACC in that regard was welcomed. The need for UNDAF to meet the needs of programme countries and reflect their priorities was

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emphasized by many delegations, as was the need to ensure that UNDAF developed into a strategic document. With regard to the recommendations on UNDAF contained in paragraph 33 (b), several speakers questioned the wording regarding coordination, stating that it should refer to coordination "with" other donors, and not "of" other donors. One delegation expressed its concern that the recommendations contained in paragraph 33 of document DP/1999/10 could lead to confusion between the UNDAF and the CDF. The speaker recalled that UNDAF, contrary to the CDF, was an internal exercise of the United Nations, with a view to allowing various bodies of the United Nations to offer a coherent, rational and ordered response to the needs of members of the Programme. The objective of the CDF was much more ambitious because it contained the entire donor community, both multilateral and bilateral. One delegation underlined that questions relating to monitoring and evaluation, as mentioned in paragraph 25 of document DP/1999/10, did not arise since UNDAF was a framework and not an operational programme. Some speakers expressed the hope that UNDG would coordinate increasingly with the other sectoral reform groups created by the Secretary-General. Other delegations underlined the need to involve civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the UNDAF process. More information on the outcome of the evaluation of the pilot UNDAFs would be welcomed.

17. Resident coordinator system. Several speakers praised the progress made in strengthening the resident coordinator system, in particular with regard to the competency-based selection process, integrated training and increased inter-agency participation. There was general support for the recommendations contained in document DP/1999/10 on the resident coordinator system.

18. Funding. Speakers underlined the progress seen in designing a funding strategy for the organization, one that would ensure greater predictability and linkage between resources and results. Many delegations emphasized the great importance attached to meeting the funding targets set for contributions to the core. Support was expressed for the text contained in paragraph 8 of document DP/1999/10.

19. Comprehensive Development Framework. Many speakers commented on the implications of the CDF for the United Nations. Some expressed concern about how the CDF would affect the success of UNDAF, as well as how the CDF could impact on the objective of UNDAF to simplify procedures at the country level, both for Governments and country-based staffs of international organizations. In that regard, there was also recognition of the need for further strengthening of the capacity of programme countries to coordinate the implementation of the various instruments. The CDF was seen as distinct from UNDAF although there could be overlap in some areas. Many speakers stated that they would reserve their views on the CDF pending the outcome of discussions within the World Bank. There was support for further consultations between the United Nations and the World Bank in order to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity. Speakers underlined the need for real partnership between UNDP and the World Bank. However, the views of delegations differed with regard to the recommendation contained in paragraph 33 (d), in which collaboration was encouraged with the World Bank on the UNDAF process and the CDF. Further information was requested on how UNDAF and the CDF would relate to the country strategy note. One delegation considered that recommendation 33 (d) was premature because the CDF

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had not yet entered the implementation phase but was still in an experimental and defining phase. Furthermore, that delegation observed that the initiative was already the subject of an initial debate within the Executive Board of the World Bank and the World Bank Directors had requested clarifications on the proposal. Therefore, it would be best to wait for discussions within the Board of the World Bank to conclude before the Executive Board considered the matter or before the participation of UNDP was considered in the implementation of the CDF.

20. The representative of the World Bank stated that cooperation between the World Bank and UNDP was positive on both the operational and institutional levels. A standing dialogue existed with UNDP on a variety of issues of mutual concern. The World Bank was currently engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations on the CDF. He noted that the rationale, design and implementation of the CDF and UNDAF were different. The World Bank did not wish to marginalize UNDAF but rather to strengthen it.

21. Regional cooperation. Many delegations emphasized the importance of UNDP support to regional cooperation, especially through the regional economic and social commissions. Interregional cooperation, including technical cooperation among developing countries, was also important.

22. Common premises and services. Several delegations stated that common premises should be utilized only where effective, an element recognized in the triennial policy review. Several speakers requested information on the cost/benefit ratio of common premises and services. One delegation noted that options regarding common premises should be examined on a case-by-case basis. More information on the possibility of increasing common services was requested by some delegations.

23. Gender balance. Many speakers expressed support for the progress of UNDP towards achieving the gender-balance targets in the organization. One delegation raised a query about why mid-level professional women had been leaving the organization in disproportionate numbers during the downsizing process.

24. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. Several references included in document DP/1999/10 on this subject were strongly supported by speakers, including that contained in paragraph 56 regarding concern about the lack of realization of funding expectations generated by the conferences, and that in paragraph 59 (a) concerning the need to call upon governing bodies of United Nations entities to consider devoting specific resources to horizontal follow-up. The role of UNDP in follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development was particularly important. One delegation questioned the reference in paragraph 59 linking follow-up to conferences with UNDAFs.

25. Follow-up to special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance. Delegations addressed the role of UNDAF as an instrument for creating a disaster-relief assistance framework, the importance of a comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance with the involvement of all actors, and the creation of flexible mechanisms for crisis countries. One delegation requested that care

be taken in the use of terminology that had not been accepted by intergovernmental consensus.

26. Format and design of report. While many speakers welcomed the common format of the reports of UNDP and UNFPA, some speakers suggested that one consolidated report would be more useful for discussion in the Economic and Social Council. Other delegations supported the continuation of producing two separate reports. In either case, the reporting should continue to focus on selected subjects and duplication between the two reports should be avoided as much as possible.

Response

27. The Administrator stated that it was important for the World Bank to clarify the role and intent of the CDF in relation to the concerns raised regarding the CCA/UNDAF process. He underlined the ambiguity surrounding the CDF in that there were currently many different views concerning its purpose and role. The consultation process between the United Nations and World Bank would help to clarify the issues. He noted that the CDF could create many demands on programme countries for which UNDP could provide technical cooperation. He looked forward to the further strengthening of the partnership of UNDP with the World Bank.

28. The Administrator stated that he expected the country teams to work together to provide assurances that individual programmes were carried out in cohesion with UNDAF. He noted that the regional economic commissions had participated in the development of the guidelines on UNDAF and had a clear role in the process. Monitoring and evaluation of UNDAF would be limited to an assessment of overall objectives, building on lessons learned by individual agencies. It was not envisaged that non-United Nations system partners would be brought into the UNDAF process but collaboration with those actors in support of country priorities could be enhanced through other means. The results of the evaluation of the pilot UNDAFs would be made available.

29. In response to other comments made, the Administrator noted that mid-career women had left in unexpectedly larger numbers in the latest downsizing owing to factors such as decentralization and family issues. Nevertheless, UNDP was proud of the gender-balance goals it had achieved. With regard to training activities, including those for resident coordinators, he stated that they now included greater inter-agency participation. He informed the Executive Board that more information on the disaster-relief activities of UNDP would be made available at the Economic and Social Council session.

30. The Executive Board took note of the report to the Economic and Social Council (DP/1999/10) and decided to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council with the comments made thereon.

B. UNFPA

UNFPA report

31. In introducing the report of the Executive Director to the Economic and Social Council (DP/FPA/1999/5), the Executive Director underscored the full commitment of UNFPA to all United Nations coordination and collaboration mechanisms. She stated that the Fund was a very active partner in the many processes by which coordination was pursued, either within the context of the entire United Nations system - through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) mechanisms, the Secretary-General's Executive Committees, and notably the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) - or via a number of other consultations and arrangements, such as the recent high-level consultations between WHO and UNFPA. She emphasized that the Fund actively cooperated with all United Nations partners and civil society in helping to implement, in a coherent, complementary and integrated manner, the agreements reached at the United Nations global conferences of the 1990s.

32. Noting that the Economic and Social Council session in 1998 was a landmark in many ways, she drew the attention of the Executive Board to a number of highlights: the special session on an integrated follow-up to the United Nations global conferences of the 1990s; the far-reaching discussions on the triennial comprehensive policy review at the annual session of the Council; the decision to schedule a special session in May 1999 on basic indicators; and the adoption by the Council of key themes for 1999 that reflected the priorities of Member States, including the role of employment and work in poverty eradication, the empowerment and advancement of women and the development of Africa.

33. The Executive Director pointed out that the report to the Council covered a wide range of issues, including the triennial comprehensive policy review and its follow-up; progress on the reform of the Secretary-General; follow-up activities to the United Nations conferences, including the ICPD+5 review and assessment; the many initiatives being pursued within UNDG, including the resident coordinator system; the question of resources for population programmes; and humanitarian/emergency operations. She drew attention to the section in the report focusing on the cooperation and collaboration among UNFPA and the Bretton Woods institutions and noted that the Fund had actively pursued consultations with the World Bank at both the headquarters and field levels. She observed that she had already discussed the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) under an earlier agenda item.

34. The Executive Director underscored that work was progressing well within the UNDG and the revised guidelines on the common country assessment (CCA) as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) were being issued. She pointed out that the CCA and the UNDAF processes provided a key opportunity to address absorptive capacity issues and to plan for national capacity-building. While noting the Fund's committed and active involvement in the UNDAF process, at both the headquarters and field levels, and its willingness to deploy the resources required to help to achieve results, the Executive Director observed that the exercise was demanding and time-consuming and UNFPA staff resources were about one quarter the size of its sister

organizations. She concluded by paying tribute to the Administrator of UNDP for his commitment to United Nations reform and his leadership in chairing UNDG.

35. During the ensuing discussion, delegations focused mainly on the following issues: the quality of the report; the commitment to United Nations reform, including involvement in UNDAF and UNDG; the Fund's partnerships with other development partners; and the need to reduce the reporting burden on programme countries.

36. Several delegations commented favourably on the quality of the report and commended it for being analytical, concise and informative. Some delegations observed that the report should be more analytical and recommended that the model of the UNDP report should be followed, with a focus on providing lessons learned and recommendations. A number of delegations were pleased to note the common format of the UNFPA and UNDP reports and stated that it facilitated the discussion. While some delegations favoured having separate reports from UNFPA and UNDP, noting that that arrangement allowed the two organizations to express their particular points of view, other delegations supported the idea of a joint report to the Council and pointed out that a consolidated report would avoid repetition.

37. Several delegations commended the Fund's strong commitment to United Nations reform and the renewed emphasis given to it in the report and also commended the Fund's involvement in the UNDAF process. They noted that good progress was being made on United Nations reform within UNDG, notably in the area of UNDAF, and were pleased with the active and supportive role UNFPA had been carrying out in that regard. One delegation proposed submitting country programmes to the United Nations country team for analysis to ensure that the country programmes were coherent and in line with the UNDAF guidelines. Another delegation strongly supported the use of UNDAF as the long-term development instrument in post-emergency situations.

38. A number of delegations expressed views on the complementarity and/or overlap of the UNDAF and the CDF (see paragraphs 16 and 19-20 for that discussion).

39. One delegation, while recognizing the Fund's key role in designing programmes that assist countries in meeting the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), stated that UNFPA also had an important role to play in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. The delegation added that the report should have highlighted results in the area of gender.

40. Several delegations underscored the importance of the Fund's partnerships with other United Nations entities and civil society organizations. While commending the Fund's collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other development partners, some delegations stated that collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions should be enhanced. Another delegation stated that the Fund should use the regional commissions to assist in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and noted that the commissions could serve as substantive partners, contributing their technical expertise and knowledge of the region to

operational activities. One delegation stated that the Executive Board should recommend more in-depth collaboration with the regional commissions. Another delegation noted that specific mention should have been made in the report of the Fund's collaboration and cooperation with the Commission on Population and Development, including in the ICPD+5 process. One delegation highlighted the importance of working with civil society, including grass-roots organizations, in programme implementation, and noted that such collaboration resulted in reduced costs, better follow-up and strengthened grass-roots communities. The delegation added that both his country and UNFPA had reaped benefits from such collaboration.

41. A number of delegations shared the Fund's concern, expressed in the report, that the reporting burden on programme countries should be reduced and reporting requirements should be simplified. One delegation, while noting that UNDG and UNDAF should not create undue burden on field offices, cautioned that coordination should not distract agencies from their original mandates.

42. One delegation, referring to paragraph 8 of the report, stated that it did not consider the establishment of data bases to be vital to the monitoring of conference goals. The delegation pointed out that the role that the Fund had been correctly playing went far beyond a restricted monitoring approach and focused on providing financial and technical resources to programme countries to assist them in achieving conference goals. The delegation agreed that the main constraint faced in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action was the lack of financial and human resources. The delegation added that it fully shared the conclusions expressed in paragraphs 39 and 40 regarding the gender implications and disproportionate impact on women of the privatization of social services and the globalization of the world economy.

43. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their frank and constructive comments and questions. She acknowledged that the UNDP report was better than the Fund's report and assured the Board that for the following year UNFPA would produce a more analytical report with lessons learned included. She added that a joint report from UNDG would also be presented to the Council. She fully agreed with the observation that the Beijing Platform for Action was important for the work of the Fund, particularly as it included key areas and issues advanced by the ICPD Programme of Action. She noted that she would continue to consult with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women concerning the Beijing follow-up process. Also, regarding the general process of conference follow-up, the Executive Director proposed a much stronger utilization of the horizontal follow-up mechanisms, including, inter alia, the effective use and promotion of the outputs of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All.

44. She welcomed the suggestion that the country programmes should be reviewed by the country team and underscored that UNFPA had long been a proponent of such an approach, particularly as it helped to identify needs, gaps and overlaps while also providing opportunities to contribute to common goals. She added that the Fund also emphasized the fundamental importance of consultations with Governments, other development partners and stakeholders, including NGOs and other members of civil society. She affirmed that the Fund's country programme process was based on national ownership and leadership and reflected national

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priorities. She noted that the Fund had a very focused mandate and hoped that the UNDAF process would be one vehicle for development partners to give active support to ICPD goals. She agreed with the delegation that had underscored the importance of and the benefits deriving from working with grass-roots organizations and community groups and also agreed that it should be reflected in the report. She assured the Executive Board that the Fund had a very good collaborative relationship with the regional commissions and she concurred with the view that the role of the commissions in conference follow-up could be enhanced. She added that the Deputy Secretary-General was holding consultations on that and related matters.

45. The Executive Director underscored that multilateral grant assistance should be channelled through the United Nations system. Emphasizing the need to rationalize and streamline various coordination processes, she wondered if it was necessary to come up with yet another new process. She did not agree with the distinction drawn by the representative of the World Bank that the CDF was a development tool and the UNDAF was a planning tool. She stressed that UNDAF was definitely a development tool and that promoting development and building national capacity in programme countries was the raison d'être of the United Nations operational activities. On the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Executive Director underscored the fundamental importance of Member States giving consistent instructions to their representatives at the United Nations and at the World Bank and concurred with the delegations who had expressed that view.

46. She agreed with the delegations that had underlined the need to reduce the reporting burden on programme countries. She noted that during her recent visit to Viet Nam, she had learned how an overwhelming reporting burden had been rationalized and streamlined through the work of a theme group on reproductive health, chaired by UNFPA, so that instead of providing separate reports on over 50 donor-supported projects, it would now be possible to report on the basis of a few selected indicators. Most importantly, the effort had enabled the Government to utilize the new reporting mechanisms for its own management of the programme.

47. The Executive Board adopted the text of the report of the second regular session 1999 on the reports to the Economic and Social Council, as orally amended.

III. COMMON PREMISES AND SERVICES

48. The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Financial and Administrative Services (BFAS) introduced the progress report on the United Nations House programme (DP/1999/CRP.5). She stated that it was the first joint report to be presented by the members of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), comprised of UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). She noted that UNICEF and WFP would submit the progress report to their respective Executive Boards.

49. She indicated that the paper was intended to present the experience and the progress to date in pursuit of the United Nations House programme. The paper was also intended to give some indication of the financial envelope for consideration by the Executive Board at the third regular session 1999, when it would take up the proposals of the 2000-2001 budget biennium. Two options were provided with regard to the pace of implementation, with indications of the proposed required financial resources allocations.

50. The Assistant Administrator informed the Executive Board that key results had been achieved and that the United Nations House programme was progressing faster than announced by the Administrator in his presentation at the annual session 1998. The Secretary-General had formally designated United Nations Houses in 31 countries, including in three countries where United Nations Houses were designated following UNDG evaluation missions. There were also a number of potential United Nations Houses where relocation to new premises matching the United Nations House definition was scheduled to take place in the near future.

51. She also referred to the concept of the "virtual" United Nations House for use in cases where United Nations Houses were not an immediate prospect. That concept was being applied where separate offices were connected through a country-based intranet that facilitated the sharing of information, practices, and expertise. A survey on common services at the country-level was under way and would provide a basis for a strategy to achieve more efficiency in the management of administrative and financial services.

52. The Assistant Administrator highlighted the various benefits that resulted when common premises and services were pursued. One of them was cost-efficiency. In addition, common premises and services would enable the successful implementation of other reform measures, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, by creating a sense of community and shared purpose among country team members and by increasing the visibility of the United Nations in capitals.

53. The 10 delegations that took the floor acknowledged with appreciation the efforts undertaken by UNDG in presenting an update on the United Nations House programme. They noted the comprehensive, enlightening and useful report contained in DP/1999/CRP.5 and commended UNDG on the presentation, the actions and efforts taken and the results so far achieved.

54. Noting that the conference room paper focused on the physical and financial aspects of the United Nations House, several delegations underlined, among other things: the need for more information on the harmonization of rules and regulations; the coordinating mechanisms of the respective United Nations funds and programmes; terms and conditions of the basic agreements of UNDG members with the host Government; and leasing terms. It was indicated that simplification of the working methods and procedures of the different United Nations agencies was also important in preparing for the fully fledged implementation of a United Nations House. Also, when pursuing overall cost savings and benefits through physical integration, consideration should be given to the unique character of the individual agencies and their independence. One delegation reminded UNDG not to overlook the functional aspect of a United Nations House. Moreover, UNDG should not lose sight of the importance of policy

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co-ordination among all United Nations agencies living under one roof and under the leadership and guidance of the resident coordinator. The speaker noted that the role and performance of the resident coordinator in providing leadership in the various programmes and activities as well as liaison with the host country was vital, a factor not referred to in document DP/1999/CRP.5. One delegation queried whether there had been a case in which the Bretton Wood institutions had joined the United Nations House and requested further information on the institutional reaction from the World Bank Headquarters on such a proposal.

55. Fully supportive of the rationale behind the establishment of the United Nations House, most delegations that took the floor offered suggestions to UNDG for implementing the United Nations House programme. Noting the shift from a land grant from the Government and construction to the cost-effective modality of a rent-free building from the host Government, one delegate suggested that UNDG consider choosing a suitable modality on a case-by-case basis, according to the requirement and situation of the host countries, instead of adopting one modality in all countries.

56. With regard to land grant donations, one delegation suggested that where appropriate, land donations should be returned to the host Government. On the other hand, UNDG should consider land donation on a case-by-case basis, with reference to lessons learned and should not have a fixed policy against land donation. One delegation sought further information on the instructions issued to resident coordinators with respect to the return of land donations made by the Government to establish United Nations Houses. Citing that any instructions to resident coordinators to return land should be made after consultation with the Executive Board, one of the speakers requested that the instructions be reviewed.

57. Several delegations expressed keen interest in the common services activities where cost and efficiency savings could be realized. They looked forward to the results of the Management Group on Services and Premises project to collect information in a systematic manner on the current status of and experience with common or shared services at the country level.

58. One delegation noted that the critical topic of security had not been addressed in the progress report.

59. Another delegation requested further clarification on the difference between common services and shared services and the concept behind their differing uses. In addition, the delegation requested further information on the major obstacles for developing common premises and services in those countries that had not yet implemented the concept. The speaker also requested examples of cases where there already were savings and cost-effectiveness from the use of common services.

60. One delegation noted that a consultant had been engaged to review and evaluate the establishment of common premises. UNDG was requested to provide information about whether local consultant expertise from the programme countries or at least from the same region had also been considered.

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61. One delegation acknowledged that the report gave a detailed impression of the complex bureaucracy to be taken into consideration while establishing common premises and services. Interest was expressed on information and communication systems that required substantial allocations and budgets by all UNDG partners. Several delegations expressed difficulty with the information provided to take informed judgment on the two options with regard to the implementation of the United Nations House programme in the future. Taking note of the complexity of the process involved, one delegation stated that results included in document DP/1999/CRP.5 were rather thin. Another delegation asked how the figure of $12 million for the establishment of 15 more United Nations Houses before the year 2004 had been calculated. The speaker also requested further information on the estimated savings for the participating agencies that would be reached by the implementation of common premises and services. In addition, UNDG was asked for further clarification on the time-frame for use of the amounts of $12 million or $24 million. Several delegations raised queries regarding how the figures had been determined and what elements were included in those figures.

62. One delegation stated that the move to a United Nations House often involved additional costs that could be made possible only with additional funding. Thus, in the short term, additional financing was needed, yet in the long run there would be long-term cost benefits and savings arising from the sharing of services and effective coordination.

63. Another delegation stated that the choice of options would depend on the availability of resources. One speaker queried whether there was any possibility of extrabudgetary resources being made available. In response, the Assistant Administrator suggested that the delegation may wish to consider providing funding for the purposes of assisting in the implementation of the United Nations House programme similar to that provided by the Government of the United Kingdom.

64. The Assistant Administrator indicated that the details and specifics of the proposals would be elaborated in the context of the 2000-2001 biennium budget proposals submitted to the Executive Board of each UNDG member. The aim of document DP/1999/CRP.5 was to provide the background information that would facilitate deliberation on the financial appropriations. She mentioned that it would be a challenge not only for the current secretariat to coordinate their budget presentations to each of their Executive Board but also for the Executive Boards to decide on their individual financial participation for the implementation of the United Nations House programme.

65. The Executive Board took note of the progress report on the United Nations House programme (DP/1999/CRP.5).

IV. STATEMENTS ON FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNDP AND UNFPA

66. The Executive Board held its first funding meeting, in accordance with decisions 98/23 and 99/1, and took note of the report on core funding commitments to UNDP in 1999 and onward (DP/1999/CRP.6) and revised tables 1 and 2 with the comments made thereon. As agreed with the Board, the tables would be further revised to reflect accurate data before official distribution.

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67. In view of the special nature of the first funding meeting, which had replaced the traditional General Assembly pledging conference and to which all members of the Programme had been specifically invited, statements of delegations who took the floor are summarized and attributed by country, and contributions pledged are reported as stated in the annex.

UNFPA segment

Executive Director's statement

68. In her opening statement the Executive Director noted that the current session was a very important one for UNFPA as it focused on several key issues, including: the multi-year funding framework; sector-wide approaches (SWAps); emergency assistance; and the Technical Support Services system. She observed that no issue was more important to the Fund, at the present time, than the multi-year funding framework, and UNFPA was very eager to get the Executive Board's input and guidance to begin the challenging process of translating concept into action. She assured the Board that the Fund fully endorsed SWAps in the health sector and recognized their potential as a vehicle to help Governments strengthen the basic health-care systems that were essential for the effective delivery of reproductive health services. However, the Fund's participation in health SWAps did not preclude its participation in other sectors, such as education and social welfare, as well as in intersectoral initiatives, including population.

69. She reported that in 1998, UNFPA had passed a funding milestone, reaching a cumulative total of contributions from 1967 to 1998 of $4.6 billion. The Fund had also managed to stay above the $300 million mark in total annual resources for the fourth year in a row. However, despite increases in national currency contributions from a number of major donors in 1998, the Fund's general resources decreased by approximately $16 million from those in 1997. At the present time, based on pledges and related information received so far, it appeared that the Fund's total income for 1999 would again be over $300 million. In that regard, she thanked all donors, for their continued support and their continued commitment to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the work of UNFPA.

70. Concerning resource use, she noted that in the past year UNFPA had made great strides in improving the planning, flow and use of its cash resources. As a result, programme delivery improved in 1998, and UNFPA fully utilized its 1998 income, as well as the balance of unexpended resources that had been carried over from the previous year. In the last quarter of the year, the Fund had to draw down from the operational reserve in the amount of $6.5 million to finance the resulting deficit. Therefore, at the end of 1998, the value of the operational reserve stood at $49.5 million, down from its authorized level of $56 million. In addition, the Fund temporarily borrowed some $2.9 million from the operational reserve to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, pending the receipt of contributions. The Executive Director brought the matter to the attention of the Executive Board for two reasons: first, to be in compliance with Financial Regulation 12.2, which required that such information be reported to the Board; and second, to appeal to the Fund's donors to remit

their pledges as early as possible in 1999 so as to enable UNFPA to ease its current cash flow problem and to restore the operational reserve to its fully funded level of $56 million.

71. With regard to the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF), she stated that it was important that the United Nations system and the World Bank engage in dialogue on the CDF. Such dialogue was useful to reflect on the use of the CDF, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and common country assessment (CCA), and in the case of UNFPA, the Fund's Country Population Assessment. She added that in dealing with the various tools, it was essential to underscore both the importance of using a common data system and the need to strengthen the capacities of countries to collect, analyse and use reliable data in programme formulation and monitoring.

72. Turning to the item on the ICPD+5, she noted that since the Executive Board last met at its first regular session 1999 in January, two important meetings had been held as part of the ICPD+5 process: the International Hague Forum, which was organized by UNFPA and graciously hosted by the Government of the Netherlands in The Hague, 8-12 February; and the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly, which met at United Nations Headquarters, 24-31 March. She observed that the preparatory committee meeting had been an intense process and reflected the importance that countries attached to the implementation of the Programme of Action. It was also a sign of the commitment and strong emotions with which many groups viewed the issues. Further, it was a sign of the need for continued efforts to inform and clarify facts and definitions, especially for those concepts and terminologies that could still cause misunderstandings. ICPD implementation was solidly on its way, and change was taking place in all regions and in most countries. Nevertheless, strong and sustained efforts were needed to ensure that the gains made in the first few years of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action were maintained and further enhanced. The Preparatory Committee Working Group had considered key future actions for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. Although it had not been possible to complete the work of the preparatory committee, the meeting had managed to get through the majority of the text, with 9 paragraphs set aside for further discussion at the resumed meeting. The Executive Director praised the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations for his skilful chairing of the meeting and for his in-depth understanding of the issues.

73. Referring to the issues that were covered in the UNFPA report to the Economic and Social Council (DP/FPA/1999/5), the Executive Director reaffirmed the Fund's total commitment to all the United Nations reform processes, notably the ongoing efforts pursued by the United Nations Development Group and also the United Nations system-wide efforts through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) machinery. She was pleased to report that UNFPA participated actively in other executive committees on issues of concern, notably the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. She also informed the Executive Board that the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNFPA had recently held a high-level consultation and the dialogue had been useful and constructive. The two organizations had agreed to issue a joint letter to their respective staffs with a view to increasing cooperation.

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74. She concluded by noting that UNFPA looked forward to the session and stood ready to provide the Executive Board with any clarification or information that might be needed. She stated that the Fund welcomed the guidance and advice that the Board provided at the sessions.

75. During the discussion that followed, several delegations commented on the World Bank's CDF. One delegation stressed the need to remain vigilant concerning the CDF and stated that the skills and comparative advantages of the funds and programmes should be respected. The delegation added that the funds and programmes of the United Nations system should remain focused on the UNDAF and not become lost in the CDF. One delegation asked what had been the thrust of the ACC discussion on the CDF and how the CDF coincided with the mandates of the funds and programmes. The delegation also wished to know if the CDF could be reconciled with the UNDAF and other aspects of the United Nations reform, including strengthening of the resident coordinator system. The delegation noted that although the World Bank had stated that the CDF was a country-driven exercise, in fact the Bank had not had a consultative process with countries. Another delegation stressed the need for the United Nations system to explore complementarity with the CDF and urged that a dialogue should be initiated early. One delegation suggested that a briefing be provided on the CDF before the Executive Board took up the agenda item on the reports to the Economic and Social Council at the current session. Another delegation asked about the future relationship between the CDF and the UNDAF at the country level. One delegation observed that at the operational level, the CDF might not present any difficulties, as the World Bank would need the United Nations agencies with their rich experience. However, there might be difficulties at the political level.

76. The President of the Executive Board noted that the CDF was still evolving. He added that at a recent meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Board it had been agreed that it would be useful to organize an informal meeting with the World Bank at the annual session of the Board.

77. One delegation, while noting that the World Bank was expanding its activities in the areas of population and health, asked what kind of systematic cooperation was planned with the World Bank. Another delegation commended the Fund's collaboration with WHO and was pleased with the Fund's private sector initiative. One delegation asked in which areas the Fund was collaborating with WHO.

78. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their useful comments. With regard to the Fund's collaboration with the World Bank, she noted that it was continuing at the global level and had also been intensified at the regional and country levels. For example, it had been agreed that for the Bank's assessments in selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the World Bank would draw upon, inter alia, UNFPA for technical support. UNFPA had also been steadily developing its collaboration with the World Bank on contraceptive procurement and logistical management systems. In addition, the Fund was working with the technical staff of the Bank to include reproductive health, including sexual health and family planning, in the Bank's sector analyses and training activities.

79. With regard to the World Bank's CDF, she stated that the Fund was conscious of the fact that at the present time it was only a proposal and consequently the United Nations system was not in a position to endorse or embrace it. Also, it would be up to Governments to decide on the CDF. In the meantime, of course, the United Nations system was moving forward with the UNDAF. The thrust of the United Nations system was to facilitate cooperation between the World Bank and the United Nations on the UNDAF and other instruments such as the common country assessment. She underlined the universal, neutral and multilateral nature of the United Nations and pointed out that the Fund's programmes were country driven. She noted that the CDF had not been discussed at the recent meeting of the ACC. However, agency colleagues in Paris and London had been briefed on the CDF by the Bank.

80. Concerning the Fund's collaboration with WHO, she stated that the two organizations were working together in a number of areas, including reproductive health and reproductive rights; adolescent reproductive health; indicators; and advocacy, especially at the country level. Together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and some agencies outside of the United Nations system, UNFPA and WHO were collaborating on methodologies to measure maternal mortality. The Fund, UNICEF and WHO also collaborated on the Coordinating Committee on Health. Recently, UNFPA and WHO had decided to issue a joint letter clarifying their relationship at the country level and defining their roles and responsibilities, including delineating how the two organizations would work together.

V. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

81. The Executive Board approved the country programme: Assistance to the Government of Benin (DP/FPA/BEN/5 and Corr.1).

82. The Minister of Planning, Economic Restructuring and Employment Promotion, Benin, took the floor to express his appreciation to the Executive Board for the approval of the programme of assistance to Benin. He thanked the Executive Director of UNFPA for the support provided by the Fund to his country and underscored the excellent collaboration and cooperation that existed between his Government and UNFPA. He affirmed his country's commitment to implementing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.

83. Another delegation expressed its full support for the programme in Benin and noted that at the first regular session 1999, it had welcomed the new formulation and design of country programmes supported by the Fund. The same delegation added that it was pleased that its comments made at the pre-session informal meeting had been taken into account by the Fund and that the additional information requested had been provided in a corrigendum.

84. The Director, Africa Division, thanked the Government of Benin for the excellent cooperation extended to UNFPA. She thanked the Minister of Planning, Economic Restructuring and Employment Promotion for being present at the session. She also thanked the delegation that had provided constructive comments and expressed appreciation for its support. She was pleased to note

that the delegation was satisfied with the additional information that the Fund had provided.

VI. TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

85. The Executive Board had before it a progress report on improvements implemented in the operation of the UNFPA Technical Support Services system (DP/FPA/1999/4). The report had been prepared in response to paragraph 4 of decision 98/6, in which the Board requested the Executive Director to submit to the Board at its second regular session 1999 a brief progress report on the effectiveness of the improvements that had been implemented since the third regular session 1997, in the operation of the Technical Support Services (TSS) system, particularly with regard to the functioning of the TSS specialists at the agency headquarters.

86. In introducing the progress report, the Director, Technical and Policy Division (TPD), highlighted the emphasis given to strengthening the coordination between the TSS specialists and the Country Support Teams (CSTs), and the focus on national capacity-building. He drew attention to the annexes to the report, which provided examples of specific collaborative activities undertaken to enhance and strengthen communication and collaboration between the three tiers of the TSS system, i.e., national experts, CSTs and TSS specialists, on research papers, articles, seminars and workshops. He recalled that in the beginning of 1998, the Coordination Branch had been established within TPD, inter alia, to maximize coordination and to mobilize technical expertise with the aim of capacity-building at the country level. He added that the present report had been prepared based on the information and analysis obtained from the CSTs, the TSS agency coordinators and UNFPA country offices.

87. The Director, TPD, stated that UNFPA looked forward to receiving the Executive Board's feedback and guidance, in particular on how the Board foresaw the three-tier approach of the TSS progressing. The Fund believed that the TSS system had evolved and been strengthened since 1997, however, UNFPA was equally aware that a perfect system had not yet been achieved. He added that in response to decision 98/6, UNFPA would provide a more detailed report to the Board at its third regular session 1999, which would, inter alia, include a whole range of lessons learned from the experience of the TSS specialists, the CSTs and the national experts. He noted that the TSS specialists and the CSTs had been actively involved in the ICPD+5 review and appraisal process. He stressed the importance of collaboration in implementing the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and added that the Fund was exploring how non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could be brought into the TSS structure. He concluded by noting that representatives from the TSS partner agencies were present at the session.

88. During the discussion that followed, several delegations expressed their appreciation for the introductory remarks made by the Director, TPD. They welcomed the report and were pleased to note the progress made in strengthening the TSS system. One delegation agreed that the use of information technologies would be very beneficial in enhancing coordination and exchange of information and experience among experts. The delegation asked if such technologies and the

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capabilities needed to facilitate such exchange could also be made available to recipient countries. The delegation underscored the need for the TSS system to contribute to building national expertise and stressed the need to establish close links between the technical expertise provided and the actual needs of recipient countries. One delegation, speaking also on behalf of another delegation, asked what percentage of the time of the TSS specialists was devoted to technical backstopping and expressed interest in knowing the costs of the TSS specialists. The delegation hoped that in the next report a chapter would be devoted to inter-agency collaboration and that solutions and options for improving the TSS system would also be included. One delegation noted that the report lacked information on the interaction of the TSS system with NGOs and that this information should be provided to the Executive Board in the subsequent report. The delegation added that CST advisers should be drawn from diverse development fields and not just fields relating to population.

89. Another delegation asked how the various technical papers prepared by the TSS system had fed into the lessons and experience synthesized for the ICPD+5 review and appraisal. The delegation was interested in knowing what kind of guidance had been provided by the TSS system with regard to sector-wide approaches (SWAps) and the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management. The delegation also inquired about the level of demand for national consultants and asked if those consultants could be directly accessed for the country programmes. One delegation observed that the TSS system should play a role in sector-wide approaches. The same delegation stated that an improved TSS system would need to go beyond its three tiers and to draw on its partner agencies for more synergistic effect while simultaneously advancing the population agenda within those partner organizations.

90. One delegation was pleased to note that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had funded a population education post in Santiago, Chile, and hoped that similar action would be taken by other TSS partner organizations so as to institutionalize their internal capacity to address population concerns. The delegation added that the next report should provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the TSS system and also focus greater attention on its interaction with country offices, particularly in support of country programmes. The delegation stated that it would welcome the opportunity to consult with the Fund on the next report. Another delegation also inquired about the TSS costs and asked how they were supported. Referring to paragraph 5 of the report, the delegation asked why the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) had not been included; with reference to paragraph 10, the delegation asked for a clarification concerning the criteria for the roster of consultants.

91. One delegation asked about the TSS system changes that were envisaged by the Fund, in particular how the system could be strengthened in terms of capacity-building and SWAps. The delegation noted that the TSS system had an important and natural role to play in SWAps and added that more specific information on that subject and on the topic of future changes should be provided in the next report so that the Executive Board could provide appropriate guidance to the Fund.

92. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and suggestions. With reference to the query on UNAIDS, she noted that the Fund was conscious of the need for HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge within the TSS system and recognized that all advisers, not just health advisers, should be trained in that area. The Fund was working with UNAIDS to develop such training.

93. The Director, TPD, thanked the delegations for their comments and questions and noted that the report to be presented to the Executive Board at the third regular session 1999 would include a number of the issues that had been raised by various delegates. He added that an informal meeting on that report could be organized with members of the Executive Board to obtain their feedback prior to the report's finalization. On the query concerning the percentage of technical backstopping undertaken by partner agencies, he stated that the International Labour Organization and UNESCO reported it to be between 40 to 60 per cent and the World Health Organization estimated it to be about 60 per cent. He added that additional details would be provided in the next report. Information on financial accountability and costs, as well as the contributions of partner agencies towards meeting some of the costs, would also be included in the next report. As regards the roster of consultants, he noted that national consultants should be the first ones to be called upon and observed that increasingly the trend was to use national experts. He took note of the suggestion made by one delegation regarding strengthening national capabilities in the area of information technologies. He pointed out that all CSTs were involved in the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management. He added that the CST in Ethiopia had been involved in the SWAp and in the future TSS expertise would, no doubt, be drawn on to a greater extent for the design and implementation of SWAps in other countries. He concluded by stating that UNFPA had taken note of the useful suggestions made by the members of the Executive Board and they would be taken into account in preparing the proposals for the next cycle of the TSS arrangements.

94. Speaking on behalf of all the TSS partner agencies, the representative from ILO stated that the constructive suggestions offered by members of the Executive Board would guide the TSS system in further strengthening its work. Recalling the origins of the TSS system, he noted that although the system had been established before ICPD, it had since become a strategic mechanism for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. He underscored the uniqueness of the TSS system, particularly with regard to its decentralized structure and its specific emphasis on inter-agency collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach in responding to the priority needs of programme countries. He stressed that the TSS system could do more to promote and advocate for population than any one agency. He added that collaboration with NGOs and research institutions was also being explored. He concluded by noting that the TSS member agencies viewed the system as an evolving one and were committed to improving and strengthening it.

95. The Executive Board took note of the progress report on improvements implemented in the operation of the UNFPA Technical Support Services system (DP/FPA/1999/4).

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VII. SECTOR-WIDE APPROACHES

96. The Executive Board had before it a conference room paper entitled UNFPA and sector-wide approaches (DP/FPA/1999/CRP.1). The paper had been submitted in response to decisions 98/17 and 98/25.

97. In introducing the paper on UNFPA and sector-wide approaches (SWAps), the Deputy Director, Technical and Policy Division, welcomed the opportunity for UNFPA to have its first dialogue with members of the Executive Board on the nature and extent of the Fund's involvement in SWAps. She noted that while the paper focused on health sector SWAps, the Board's guidance regarding the Fund's participation in SWAps would be equally applicable to other sectors, including the education sector. She highlighted the key premises on which SWAps were based, including: a coherent sectoral strategy and policy; the lead role of the Government in defining sector strategy; promoting ownership of that strategy at all levels; building broad partnerships with civil society groups and the private sector; enabling the poorest and most vulnerable groups to have access to basic social services; strengthening national capacity; and utilizing common implementation arrangements. Those principles were in keeping with the Fund's mandate and its commitment to the integrated follow-up to United Nations global conferences, including the Fund's lead role in assisting countries in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. She noted that the Fund's cautious approach to SWAps was based on a concern for a degree of financial accountability that would permit UNFPA to track its funds and ensure that they were being spent in the area of reproductive health. As a result, while UNFPA had participated in the SWAp strategy discussions in Ghana and Zambia, it had not put its monies in the common basket.

98. In recent years, however, the SWAp modality had evolved considerably and could accommodate several funding arrangements such as parallel financing and the partial pooling of resources. The pooling of resources in a common basket was no longer viewed as an essential requirement. Such flexibility would facilitate the Fund's fuller participation in SWAps. The Deputy Director, added that UNFPA had taken an active role in the health SWAP in Ethiopia and UNFPA-supported family life education projects were part of the education SWAp in that country. UNFPA had also been an active participant in the SWAp in Bangladesh and the Fund's comparative advantage in the area of reproductive health had been recognized and utilized in the SWAps in both Bangladesh and Ethiopia. The Fund anticipated more extensive participation in SWAps in the future and was keenly aware of the need to enhance the skills of its staff, especially staff in the country offices, by providing training in the use of the SWAP modality. Based on their experience with SWAps, the UNFPA Country Support Teams were well positioned to provide technical assistance and to compile lessons learned and best practices. The Deputy Director concluded by noting that UNFPA welcomed the guidance that the Executive Board might wish to provide to enhance the Fund's participation in SWAps.

99. During the ensuing discussion several delegations welcomed the paper on SWAps, as well as the opportunity that it provided for dialogue and discussion. Some delegations stated that the Fund's approach had been too cautious and they urged UNFPA to take a bolder, more robust approach to SWAps and to play a stronger role in their implementation. Several delegations pointed out that the

Fund also had an important role to play in the policy discussions on SWAps. Some delegations stated that they were disappointed that the paper confined itself to SWAps in the health sector and noted that it would be interesting to learn about the Fund's views on SWAps in the education sector. Several delegations emphasized the importance of sharing lessons learned. Some delegations underscored the importance of having sufficient competencies within the Fund to undertake SWAps and pointed out the usefulness of taking advantage of the Technical Support Services system in that regard.

100. One delegation emphasized that it would like UNFPA to be fully versed in the logic of sector-wide thinking in all countries, not just in those where SWAps were being actively negotiated. The delegation noted that the report could have said more about the Fund's role in shaping the dialogue and actively feeding into the further conceptual and operational development of SWAps, for example, in introducing good practices such as gender mainstreaming. The delegation agreed with the central finding of the paper that the Fund's approach must be pragmatic and driven by case-by-case decisions on whether it could better fulfil its mandate inside or outside the SWAp. The delegation welcomed the opportunity to engage in dialogue with UNFPA at country, regional and headquarters level and offered to share its country's expertise and experience in both SWAp theory and practice.

101. Another delegation was pleased to note that the paper was one of the first written on SWAps from the perspective of a multilateral organization. The delegation stated that its country was very committed to SWAps and had supported SWAps in the health sector in Ethiopia, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. In addition, it had hosted two international SWAp conferences: one on health in 1997, and the other on agriculture in 1999. The SWAp was an important new instrument for supporting programmes in a manner that promoted local ownership and sustainability. It had important implications for all development partners in terms of changes in policies, practices and procedures that would be necessary for participation. The delegation cautioned against prescriptive approaches and stressed the need to accommodate local realities. The delegation stated that it was important to work towards developing systems that reflected common concerns including the concerns of partner Governments. The vision of a SWAp was that there would be a common pool to which stakeholders would contribute which would be used to finance an agreed programme of activities. While there was currently some flexibility concerning funding arrangements the delegation did not envisage that flexibility remaining as the SWAp matured. The question therefore arose, as to whether UNFPA would be able to contribute to a pool that financed a programme of activities that it had been involved in negotiating. Noting that SWAps in the health sector had always been introduced in the context of reform, the delegation stated that the priorities of the multilateral and bilateral agencies should be situated firmly in the context of the priorities of the partner country and in the context of the need to build sustainable systems. The delegation offered to assist the Fund in any way possible to ensure its full participation in SWAps.

102. One delegation, noting its full support for SWAps, observed that in the past external assistance had not proved effective because it had been directed to projects that did not have national ownership and because project design had focused more attention on inputs than on outputs and results. SWAps represented

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a more desirable modality in terms of prioritizing public expenditures; improving the effectiveness of external assistance; and ensuring national ownership of the development process. While acknowledging that there were practical difficulties in implementing SWAps, the delegation went on to state that those difficulties were not insurmountable. The delegation added that key elements of a successful SWAp process would include: establishing national leadership in setting priorities for public expenditure and in programme development and execution, in close partnership with external partners and local stakeholders; adopting flexible procedures for aid delivery and utilization consistent with the new partnership approach; improving coordination and integration of external assistance; maintaining greater transparency in aid delivery on the part of donors, and in accountability on the part of the recipient Governments; increasing the involvement of local non-governmental stakeholders in development management; and utilizing a government-led coordinated consultative process to overcome obstacles.

103. Another delegation welcomed the intensive consultative process undertaken by UNFPA to familiarize itself with and benefit from the experience of its bilateral and multilateral partners with regard to SWAps. The delegation concurred with the Fund on the need to customize SWAps to suit the needs of individual countries. The delegation stressed that UNFPA should play a key role in health sector SWAps or else it would become marginalized as other organizations embarked on SWAps. Underscoring that Government ownership was essential for the success of a SWAp, the delegation stated that other necessary ingredients for success included a commitment to shared goals on the part of Governments and other key players; and a willingness among the partners to give up the right to select projects for financing in exchange for having a voice in the process of developing sectoral strategies and allocating resources. The delegation added that its own country's experience indicated the key importance of involving all stakeholders early in the SWAp process so that participation and ownership of outcomes would strengthened. A major challenge faced in the SWAps was striking the right balance between the relevant actors while simultaneously remaining small and focused in order to maintain efficiency. The delegation stated that it stood ready to share its experience with UNFPA.

104. One delegation, citing the experience of its country, noted that implementing a SWAp had not been without major challenges, however, progress in service delivery and institutional development had been positive even in the early transitional stage. As a result of the SWAp the country had a medium-term health strategy, a five-year programme of work with an agreed financing envelope and resource allocation targets, common management arrangements for the programme, a memorandum of understanding, and a code of conduct shared with the donors. It had taken time and effort to develop those components but the result was a clear and agreed policy framework, which was a fundamental prerequisite for health sector development. The delegation noted that the health reform process focused on institutional development as the basis for common management arrangements. In the past, donors would reject the government systems and establish their own. However, under the present arrangement, donors were working with the Government to establish mutually acceptable systems for procurement, planning, financial management and performance monitoring. The delegation stated that UNFPA should be allowed the flexibility to participate in SWAps, initially on a pilot basis. Negotiations with Governments could help to

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ensure that the sector indicators included those specific to the Fund's mandate. The delegation concluded by posing the following question: if a country could give an audited financial statement covering funds received from all sources and confirming that the funds received were properly utilized, and if it could indicate that good progress in the area of a donor's mandate had been achieved, then why would it matter that the donor could not track the particular dollars it had contributed?

105. One delegation stated that the paper should have stressed the Fund's role in the policy-making process and should have given a constructive analysis of the changes required within the Fund to enable its participation in SWAps. The delegation noted that it would welcome a decision by the Executive Board recommending that UNFPA play a leading role in SWAps. Another delegation noted that although SWAps had been undertaken over a number of years they had not progressed much. In view of that, and given the Fund's small size, the delegation supported the Fund's cautious and prudent approach to the implementation of SWAps. The delegation added that while SWAps should be supported, they represented a major challenge and their implementation could not be accomplished in just one move. Furthermore, SWAps should be expanded only after the experimental stage had demonstrated success.

106. One delegation emphasized that SWAps should promote a government-led, coherent policy and programme. SWAps should also reduce the heavy time and cost burdens of multiple reporting systems. Furthermore, government decision-making should not be constrained, regardless of whether the official development assistance provided was small or substantial. While noting that the relationship of SWAps with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework would be congruent and complementary since both processes would be led by the Government, the delegation stated that it would reserve its position on the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) until discussions on the CDF had been concluded. The delegation added that it desired to see the funds and programmes and the World Bank working together to respond to national priorities, while maintaining separate and distinct identities, roles and mandates. In short, complementarity not congruence was desirable. The delegation clarified that in the context of its own country, external assistance to SWAps would be channelled through government ministries and concerned departments, and not directly to district-level bodies or NGOs. The delegation endorsed the Fund's assessment, contained in paragraph 25 of the paper, that UNFPA participation in SWAps would be determined by taking into account the particular country context.

107. Another delegation, while acknowledging that problems existed with current modalities of donor programming, noted that new approaches needed to be considered carefully. The delegation endorsed the search for better tools and remedies, including the work of the International Working Group on Sector-Wide Approaches for Health Development and the Special Programme of Assistance for Africa, and pointed out that the lack of uniformity among donor agencies in administrative and reporting requirements and incompatibility in procurement and management procedures represented a huge additional cost for developing countries. Those issues needed to be addressed when considering SWAps. Linkages between the SWAps and the Development Assistance Committee Strategy for the 21st Century as well as the World Bank's CDF also needed to be clarified.

The delegation stated that it would be pleased to share with UNFPA and interested Governments its experience and tools funded by the United States Agency for International Development for assisting countries to monitor and evaluate improvements in the health systems, including efforts under the MEASURE/Demographic and Health Survey and National Health Accounts initiatives to track programme performance and expenditures. To ensure complementarity, the delegation welcomed collaboration with UNFPA in country-specific activities.

108. One delegation, speaking also on behalf of another delegation, while urging the Fund not to confine itself to SWAps in the health sector, asked if UNFPA planned to propose changes to the financial rules and legislation that might currently preclude the Fund's contributing to a common basket of funding. The delegation also asked for a clarification on paragraph 28 and inquired as to which initiatives had been undertaken with other partners in the United Nations system.

109. Another delegation, while noting that it understood the difficulty UNFPA had encountered in getting other SWAp actors to focus attention on the area of reproductive health, stated that the Fund's commitment to the SWAp policy dialogue should be strengthened. The delegation called on the Executive Board to provide UNFPA with appropriate guidance in that regard. The delegation asked if it would be possible for UNFPA to obtain the support of other United Nations Development Group (UNDG) member organizations regarding the experience of countries where the Fund did not have programmes. The delegation expressed concern about the increased layer of administration that SWAps might introduce and hoped that a future report would highlight the problems encountered and the lessons learned.

110. One delegation, while underscoring the need for greater flexibility in funding arrangements, emphasized the importance of accountability, not only in terms of financial management but also in terms of outcomes. Referring to paragraph 7 of the paper, another delegation asked about the kind of problems that made it imperative to secure financial accountability. One delegation, recalling General Assembly resolution 42/125, reiterated that all development efforts should be government-led and the overall responsibility for any programme should be that of the Government.

111. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their comments and suggestions. She noted that it was important for the Fund to be able to adjust its financial regulations and procedures in order to allow fuller participation in SWAps. For the time being, UNFPA had engaged in parallel funding. She added that it was also necessary to take into account the fact that UNFPA had a small staff both at headquarters and in its country offices. She observed that the Executive Board may wish to examine SWAps together with the Fund and suggest a common approach that could be used by the various funds and programmes.

112. The Deputy Director, TPD, thanked the delegations for their useful comments and welcomed the offers made by several delegations to share their SWAp experience with UNFPA. She affirmed the Fund's commitment to enhance its role in SWAps. She noted that UNFPA had a very focused mandate to which it was obligated to adhere. The Fund was also obliged to chart for its donors how

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funds were expended. The SWAp modality, however, did not always enable such tracking of funds. Observing that SWAps presented both challenges and opportunities, she stated that the Fund would seek to strengthen its role in the SWAp policy dialogue, particularly with reference to reproductive health and rights, gender, and women's empowerment. She added that the Fund would confer further with its partners concerning SWAps. In response to the query on paragraph 28, she noted that the Fund had discussed SWAps with its partners in the United Nations system as well as with non-governmental organizations. The Fund's dialogues with the World Bank had included discussions on SWAps. Also, there was a UNDG working group that focused on SWAps. She stated that the Fund would follow up with the Executive Board to see if any changes in financial regulations would be required to allow UNFPA to participate more fully in the SWAps.

113. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

99/4. UNFPA and sector-wide approaches

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report on sector-wide approaches contained in document DP/FPA/1999/CRP.1;

2. Encourages UNFPA to take an active part in the policy-making and planning stages in the sector-wide approaches in programme countries, with the concurrence and the overall guidance of national Governments, and to take an important advocacy role regarding reproductive and sexual health services and reproductive rights in such processes, taking into account the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action;

3. Requests UNFPA, in this context, to broaden and strengthen the competencies required to secure full and active participation of UNFPA in the policy-making and planning stages in sector-wide approaches, and to strengthen arrangements to access a full range of technical expertise;

4. Requests UNFPA to consider further, in consultation with partners, challenges and opportunities for a full-fledged involvement by UNFPA in the sector-wide approaches and to examine the need for changes of administrative and financial regulations, if any, that could facilitate the involvement of UNFPA, taking into account the multi-year funding framework;

5. Requests the Executive Director to present to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2000 a conference room paper on the involvement of UNFPA in sector-wide approaches.

16 April 1999

VIII. ICPD+5

114. During the discussion, several delegations thanked the Executive Director for her comprehensive opening statement. Some delegations were disappointed

that the preparatory committee for the special session had been unable to complete its work. Other delegations, however, stated that they were optimistic about a positive outcome at the resumed meeting, and added that they had been pleased to learn about the progress achieved in implementing the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action in countries around the world. Several delegations stressed that it was essential not to reopen the debate on issues that had been negotiated and agreed at ICPD. At the same time, several delegations emphasized the need to move the process forward. The urgent need to address the issue of adolescent reproductive health was underscored by several delegations. A number of delegations stated that they were pleased at the agreement reached on the goals for HIV/AIDS. Several delegations highlighted the need to mobilize resources and stressed the importance of giving high priority to the issue at the resumed meeting of the preparatory committee.

115. One delegation stated that after the first two years following ICPD international assistance flows had become stagnant and then had started to taper off. The delegation added that it was significant that domestic resources had been more forthcoming compared to international commitments. Drawing attention to the fact that most resources were mobilized in a small number countries, the delegation pointed out the need to broaden the resource base. The delegation underscored that mobilization of resources for population and development must be placed high on the global development agenda. Furthermore, given its responsibility for the follow-up and implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the country level, increased resources should be made available to UNFPA.

116. Another delegation expressed concern that certain paragraphs pertaining to adolescents were among those that had been set aside at the meeting of the preparatory committee. The delegation stated that since ICPD it had become clear that the best way to achieve a better, safer and healthier future for children was to advance the education, health and rights of young people. While the roles and responsibilities of parents must be given due consideration, so should the rights and evolving capacities of young people.

117. One delegation noted that it would like to see the recommendations made by the delegations from the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan to be reflected in the final document of the preparatory committee for the special session and to be taken into consideration by the Fund in the implementation of its country programmes in that region. The delegation underscored the high level of cooperation between its Government and UNFPA and called for continued technical assistance from the Fund, inter alia, to improve women's reproductive health, including through the provision family planning services, and to establish training programmes for young people.

118. Another delegation stated that the subject of ICPD+5 should not be discussed at the Executive Board session as another competent body was dealing with the issue. The delegation noted that the discussion at the Executive Board could have a negative impact on the discussions of the preparatory committee and therefore advised the Board to refrain from discussing the topic.

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119. One delegation, observing that the ICPD+5 represented an important milestone, suggested that linkages be established between the Executive Board and the key actions for further implementation emerging from the ICPD+5 review and appraisal process.

120. Another delegation, while reiterating its commitment to undertake cooperation, particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS and education for adolescents to promote reproductive health, called for careful consideration of the proposed target allocation of 4 to 5 per cent of total official development assistance (ODA) to population. The delegation added that that target figure had not appeared in any agreed intergovernmental document. One delegation, reaffirming its Government's strong support for carrying the ICPD+5 process forward, stated that its Government allocated 4 per cent of ODA to population. Another delegation, expressing concern about the lack of resources, called attention to the fact that certain middle-income countries were faced with falling socio-economic indicators and therefore additional data were needed for classifying countries into the various resource allocation categories.

121. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their useful comments and suggestions. She was very pleased with the supportive comments made by several delegations on the ICPD+5 process and she hoped that those delegations that had expressed their support for adolescent reproductive health, the role of civil society, and the benchmarks for HIV/AIDS, would make their views known at the resumed meeting of the preparatory committee. She agreed with the delegations that had underscored the need to mobilize resources for population and development and to also broaden the resource base. She also agreed with the suggestion to link the past and the future through the ICPD+5 process and noted that the International Hague Forum had sought to do that. She fully agreed with the delegations that had stated that there should be no attempt to reopen the debate on issues that had been agreed to in Cairo.

122. The Executive Director agreed that adolescent reproductive health was a serious issue around the world and needed to be addressed on a priority basis. She noted, that based on country needs, actions should be taken to implement the goals to which the international community had agreed, including in such key areas as education for girls and HIV/AIDS prevention among youth. She underscored that the Fund was supporting sex education programmes in 90 countries. She was pleased to note that the preparatory committee for the special session had reached agreement on the interim goals for maternal mortality reduction, basic education for girls, and new goals for HIV/AIDS. She stressed that delegations should make the same observations in the follow-up fora of all the other global conferences so that consistency could be achieved, including in the legislation emanating from different bodies of the United Nations system. She underscored the importance of having international support for establishing and strengthening data systems in programme countries. She noted that without good data systems it would not be possible to have benchmarks and to measure progress in achieving conference goals. She fully agreed that education for girls was essential and noted that the Fund supported advocacy in that key area. She added that guidelines on basic education had been included in the set of guidelines produced by the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, chaired by UNFPA.

123. Responding to the query on the percentage of ODA, the Executive Director noted that the figure of 4 per cent of ODA for population had been proposed at the Amsterdam Forum in 1989 and had been adopted by the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway. She agreed with the important point made by one delegation regarding middle-income countries that were classified as "B" countries but because of declining indicators fell in the "A" category. She noted that the Fund was aware of that issue and was considering ways to address it.

124. In responding to a comment made by one delegation that the ICPD+5 should not be discussed at the Executive Board session, the Executive Director pointed out that as far as the negotiations on the document for the special session were concerned, those would take place at the meeting of the preparatory committee. However, the topic of ICPD+5 was on the agenda of the Executive Board and would therefore be discussed by the Board. She reminded delegations that in fact the topic had also been on the agenda of earlier sessions of the Board and the Fund had sought and received guidance from the Board regarding the ICPD+5 review and appraisal process.

IX. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

125. The Executive Board had before it a conference room paper entitled "The Multi-year planning, management and funding framework: Follow-up to decision 98/24 on UNFPA funding strategy" (DP/FPA/1999/CRP.2). As requested in Executive Board decision 98/24, the paper presented a conceptual framework for a multi-year funding framework (MYFF), integrating programme objectives, resources, budget and outcomes, with the objective of increasing core resources.

126. In introducing the paper, the Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) underscored that the MYFF was key to ensuring that the Fund had the resources it needed to meet the ever-increasing demands for UNFPA assistance and that those resources were used in the most efficient and effective way possible. He stated that operationalizing the results-based approach was complex and required basic shifts in thinking by all concerned. He emphasized that UNFPA was fully committed to implementing the MYFF. Nevertheless, the Fund did not underestimate the challenges the new orientation would pose to the organization including, inter alia, the demands in terms of staff time, training requirements and changes in organizational culture. He noted that the paper before the Executive Board was a product of a Fund-wide team approach and reflected the efforts of a working group composed of representatives from all organizational units in UNFPA. The paper had also benefited from inputs from UNFPA country offices and Country Support Teams, as well as from consultations with its development partners. He stated that UNFPA recognized and appreciated the pre-eminent role that the Board had played in the process, both as guide and partner.

127. The Deputy Executive Director pointed out that a number of efforts would be necessary to institutionalize a results-based approach at UNFPA, and both human and financial resources would be required to accomplish the task. To cover the cost of those efforts, including such items as briefings, training workshops, feasibility studies and short-term staffing, UNFPA was seeking extrabudgetary

resources as delineated in annex 4 of the paper. The Deputy Executive Director concluded by noting that the Fund would continue its broad and open consultative process with the Board and all other development partners.

128. The Director, Division for Finance, Administration and Management Information Services, provided a brief overview of key elements in the paper before the Executive Board. He acknowledged that in preparing the document UNFPA had benefited from the experiences of other organizations and agencies, in particular UNDP. He noted that the systematic linking or associating of results with resources was the central consideration in the development of a MYFF. Annex 2 of the document provided a schematic representation of the framework proposed by UNFPA. The framework presupposed a number of ingredients such as a clear mission statement, well-specified programme priorities, credible indicators of results and outputs, and a supportive organizational approach. As indicated in paragraph 9 of the paper, UNFPA already had most of those elements in place but required an overall framework to link those and other elements in an integrated way. He observed that the MYFF was conceptualized as having four components: (a) results and indicators; (b) outputs and performance measures; (c) resource requirements and utilization; and (d) the funding system. The document included illustrative examples of results, indicators, outputs, and performance measures for the Fund's three mandated programme priority areas of reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, population and development strategies, and advocacy.

129. The Director stated that the framework would be translated into a practical and operational four-year plan containing: (a) organizational objectives (both programme and management and administration); (b) specification of results, indicators, outputs and performance measures; (c) distribution of required resources by programme priority areas and country categories; and (d) overall resource distribution by programmes and their associated support budgets. The Fund proposed to develop such a multi-year plan covering the period 2000-2003 and would submit it to the Executive Board at the Board's first regular session 2000. He noted that UNFPA would report to the Board every year to keep it apprised of the progress made in implementing various elements of the multi-year plan. Additionally, towards the end of the plan period, in late 2002, the Fund would submit to the Board a detailed report on the cumulative implementation of the multi-year plan including a quantitative and qualitative assessment of programme objectives achieved, lessons learned, proposals for modification of the next cycle of the multi-year plan and implications for organizational strengthening. He concluded by underscoring that the success of the MYFF would depend on a sense of ownership and partnership among all UNFPA staff, the Executive Board and the Fund's development partners; a transparent process; and a commitment by all to deliver the necessary requirements.

130. During the ensuing discussion delegations focused on the following key issues: financial contributions to UNFPA; the timing of the MYFF and synchronization of the pledging session and the annual reporting on the MYFF; indicators; and extrabudgetary requirements for the further development and introduction of the MYFF.

131. Numerous delegations praised both the high quality of the document and the open and transparent consultative process that the Fund had followed in

developing a MYFF. The delegations noted their appreciation for the Fund's commitment and hard work and commended the Fund for the partnership approach it had adopted. Some delegations observed that UNFPA had successfully tackled the conceptual and methodological aspects of the MYFF. Referring to the MYFF requirements concerning indicators and data collection and analysis, a number of delegations stated that the process should not become burdensome for countries, nor should it interfere with programme implementation at the country level. Several delegations noted that the MYFF would be instrumental in producing results, increasing efficiency and mobilizing resources. Some delegations noted that due consideration should be given to countries that were unable to participate in multi-year pledging. A number of delegations asked for clarification on the distinction between results and outputs. One delegation asked whether all categories of countries (A,B,C and others) were included in the analysis of the logical frameworks (logframes) conducted as part of the MYFF development process. Several delegations stressed the importance of ensuring that all UNFPA staff at headquarters and in the field were involved in the MYFF exercise, and urged the Fund to continue its open consultative process with other development partners.

132. Contributions. Several delegations announced their contributions to UNFPA. The delegation of the Czech Republic announced that its Government would pay its 1999 contribution by the end of April. The delegation of Denmark stated that its Government would continue to support the Fund at the same level as in the previous year, 220 million Danish kroner or approximately $30 million. The delegation added that it would expedite the payment of its first installment. The delegation of India noted that its Government would contribute 9 million Indian rupees to UNFPA in 1999 and that the payment would be made in April. The delegation of Ireland announced that its Government had increased its 1999 contribution to UNFPA to 360,000 Irish pounds, an increase of 16 per cent over its 1998 contribution, and had pledged that its 2000 and 2001 contributions would be at least as much as its 1999 contribution. The delegation added that its 1999 contribution had already been paid in full. The delegation of the Netherlands announced that its Government's 1999 contribution would equal its contribution in the previous year, 78 million Dutch guilders or approximately $40 million, and would be paid in bimonthly installments. In addition, Dutch embassies would continue to directly finance several UNFPA programmes at the country level. The delegation of the United Kingdom announced that its Government had pledged 45 million British pounds over three years and had altered its payment schedule to expedite payments to UNFPA.

133. Timing of the MYFF. Various views were expressed by the delegations concerning the timing of the presentation of the MYFF to the Executive Board, and synchronization of the MYFF annual report and the pledging of contributions by members of the Fund. Some delegations stated that the MYFF should be presented to the Executive Board in January 2000, at its first regular session, so that the pledging could take place in April 2000 at the Board's second regular session. A number of delegations emphasized the need to link results and resources and noted that the pledging should therefore be synchronized with the presentation of the annual report on the MYFF outcomes and results. Some delegations also underscored the need for members of the Fund to participate actively in the funding process in order to reach the target of $400 million.

Some delegations pointed out the need for the UNDP and UNFPA MYFF processes to be parallel.

134. One delegation, noting that producing a MYFF was a complex process, wondered if the first regular session 2000 was too early to produce a quality product and suggested that the Executive Board's discussion on financial targets scheduled for the third regular session 1999 could be used as an occasion for UNFPA to informally share further information with the Board on the progress achieved in formulating the MYFF. Following that, a preliminary MYFF could be presented at the first regular session 2000, and could subsequently be finalized for formal presentation to the Board at its second regular session 2000, which would also be the pledging session. That would allow members of the Fund to have three to four months to consult and become more fully involved in the process.

135. Some delegations suggested that the MYFF annual report could be integrated with the Fund's annual report that was presented to the Executive Board each year at its annual session. One delegation was not in favour of that proposal as it would separate the reporting from the pledging, the latter being scheduled to take place each year at the Board's second regular session. The delegation reiterated the importance of maintaining the link between results and resources. The same delegation expressed concern regarding the timing of the reporting on the MYFF and noted that 2000 was a transitional year and a more specific report should be presented in 2001.

136. Another delegation observed that the timing of the MYFF should reflect two key considerations: the inclusion of the field input and analysis needed to make the MYFF a quality product; and the usefulness of the annual report to members of the Fund in making decisions concerning their contributions to UNFPA. The delegation added that it would be willing to support a presentation of the annual progress report on the MYFF to the Board at its annual session if that was more suitable to UNFPA, and if the two above-mentioned considerations could be met.

137. One delegation stated that UNFPA should be allowed sufficient time to produce the best quality MYFF and should not be locked into an unrealistic time-frame by the Executive Board. The delegation stressed that a clear link should be maintained between the reporting on progress achieved and the debate on funding. The delegation suggested that perhaps the matter could be discussed further at the Board at an informal meeting during its third regular session 1999.

138. Indicators. One delegation, noting that the development of indicators and performance measures was an evolving issue, raised several points concerning the attribution of indicators and the aggregation of performance measures. In view of the need for sustainability, the indicators used to measure the long-term development results should include a built-in component to assess the building up of national capacities and the extent to which the measured results could be attributed to national capacities and national ownership. It would be important to know whether the favourable development recorded was due to the Fund's active participation or whether it was a result of increased national capacity and national ownership built up through UNFPA support. The delegation noted that

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the issue of decentralization versus the aggregation of common performance measures should be examined more closely. The problem was reconciling the decentralized approach, i.e., deciding on appropriate performance measures at the level closest to programme beneficiaries, with the commonly agreed principle of the comparability of data. Locally established performance measures would make it difficult to compare one programme to another and to aggregate the outputs of the organization as a whole. Thus, the feasibility studies that UNFPA proposed to carry out in order to determine which common performance measures should be used would be very important for further developing the process.

139. Another delegation stated that it was crucial to have agreement on the indicators and that it might be necessary to have only three or four indicators. Also, if aggregate indicators were used it should be clear how many countries were participating. One delegation stated that both qualitative and quantitative indicators were needed; however, the acid test would be the credibility of the information on results that would be provided to the Executive Board, both annually and quadrennially, on the basis of which the Board would assess the lessons learned and decide on the next four-year plan. Another delegation asked how the data would be collected and analysed. The delegation agreed that the benchmarks for reproductive health should not be expressed in purely quantitative terms and hoped that the Fund would later present qualitative indicators, particularly when the resource allocation system was revisited. One delegation stated that there should be a substantive discussion on indicators and expressed concern about the value of using an indicator such as the number of female parliamentarians, noting that while its country had only a small number of female parliamentarians it did not mean that there had been no progress in the health sector.

140. Another delegation noted that it was important to clarify the extent to which UNFPA should be involved in achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), taking into account its available financial and human resources. For example, the document included the proportion of women parliamentarians as an illustrative indicator; however, that might not be a meaningful indicator for UNFPA as the Fund's activities could not be directly linked to such an indicator. The delegation pointed out that the Fund's resources should be directed to activities where they could be used effectively and produce results. Also, the Fund should be realistic and not too ambitious in the goals that it set for itself. Indeed, it would be difficult to mobilize resources if UNFPA were unable to demonstrate results. Hence, UNFPA should clearly define realistic goals and publicly announce the results achieved in order to increase public awareness and generate public support for resource mobilization.

141. One delegation, pointing out the importance of the quality of measures used, asked how the Fund would capture the work it was doing with young people in the area of reproductive health. Recognizing the problematic nature of results and qualitative performance measures for population and women's equality and empowerment, the delegation asked how they would be defined, particularly in the area of advocacy where confusion could arise between activities and outputs. The delegation asked to know more about the following aspects of the MYFF: the reporting format; the aggregation of outputs in light of the decentralization of

decision-making; the responsibility for making strategic programming choices; and the links between outcomes and expenditures. The delegation also asked if UNFPA planned to first pilot the MYFF in a few countries before undertaking full implementation, and noted that it was interested in discussing the results-outputs matrix as it evolved.

142. Another delegation, underlining the linkage between the MYFF and increased core resources, stated that the triennial comprehensive policy review of the General Assembly had recognized that the effectiveness and impact of operational activities of the United Nations system needed to be enhanced, inter alia, through a substantial increase in funding and by placing that funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. The delegation stated that both input and output indicators would be needed. It asked for additional information on the qualitative indicators being proposed in paragraph 25, and concurred with the observation made in paragraph 24 that it might not be possible to see a point-to-point improvement in the baselines in the short term. The delegation added that the absence of such an improvement should not become a limiting factor for funding UNFPA.

143. Another delegation stated that the results mentioned in the paper were rather broad and general in scope and would not provide a clear indication of the Fund's performance, given that various organizations would also contribute to the attainment of results. It was therefore important to evaluate outputs and examine how they contributed to results. The delegation noted that the document did not address the issue of costs, adding that it was essential to take into consideration the views of the programme beneficiaries and end-users. One delegation noted that flexibility was needed in developing a results-based approach, and added that UNFPA should make use of national indicators in countries where they were available and, where unavailable, should assist in data collection. The delegation emphasized the importance of programme monitoring and evaluation.

144. One delegation noted that while the paper attached importance to linking results and resources it lacked details on the direct allocation of resources to individual results. For example, in table 1 of the document there was no information about the level of resources UNFPA allocates to efforts to reach outcomes for which it considers itself to be responsible. The delegation added that UNFPA was in a better position than UNDP to establish the linkages between results and resources since it already had two tools geared to results-based budgeting, namely, the logical framework methodology and a system of resource allocation. The delegation was gratified to note the Fund's cooperation with the United Nations Development Group and encouraged UNFPA to continue it.

145. One delegation appreciated the integration of the ICPD Programme of Action in the MYFF proposal and stressed that the results of ICPD+5 process should be fully reflected in the final MYFF document. In particular, given the Fund's mandate in the area of reproductive health, the delegation hoped that the ICPD+5 emphasis on HIV/AIDS would be reflected in the programme implementation and evaluation aspects of the MYFF, as that would help to ensure the fuller integration of HIV/AIDS concerns in population and development policies and programmes. Another delegation drew attention to the importance of developing policies on the key issue of ageing. The delegation noted that the United

Nations International Institute on Ageing located in its country conducted training courses on gerontology. As part of the Institute's new strategy, regional and country-level institutes would be set up to increase training opportunities.

146. One delegation, noting that the document mainly addressed partnerships with programme and donor countries and focused on core budget contributions, stressed the importance of delineating partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector, foundations and lending institutions. The delegation underscored the importance of having multiple partnerships and seeking support from all categories of donors. It added that to avoid disappointment it should be recognized that in the short run it seemed unlikely that there would be any significant increase in the level of contributions from the small group of major donors. Therefore, for the time being, any major growth in contributions would need to come from other partners: lending institutions, the private sector, foundations and programme countries. The delegation added that the General Assembly's special session on the ICPD+5 review and appraisal and the Millennium Assembly offered opportunities to mobilize resources.

147. Another delegation focused on accountability and stated that in order for the MYFF to operate successfully the respective roles of the Executive Board and UNFPA in that area should be clearly defined. The delegation stated that the role of the Board should be to review and approve UNFPA programmes and hold the Fund accountable for delivery according to an approved plan. The Board should not seek to manage the day-to-day operations of the Fund as that was the task of senior management, but should serve as an accountability mechanism, overseeing the sound management of operations and monitoring results to ensure that plans were being carried out successfully. The Board should clarify the MYFF objectives and approve the performance indicators for measuring success. The Board should also be involved in assessing the performance of senior management. Referring to paragraph 35 of the document, the delegation asked if the accountability mentioned was "upward", i.e., officials being accountable to senior management for delivering on the objectives set annually in the plan and senior management being accountable to the Board; or "downward", i.e., senior management through delegated authority dealing directly with the concerned clients; or "outward", i.e., technical and other experts involved in projects complying with ethical/professional standards and the rules and regulations governing the programme as a whole. The delegation stated that the Board could close the accountability loop by ensuring that UNFPA reported adequately to the Board on its performance, particularly with regard to the achievement of objectives.

148. Extrabudgetary funds. Several delegations endorsed and supported the Fund's request for $1 million in extrabudgetary funds for the further development and introduction of the MYFF over an 18-month period. A few delegations noted that the requested amount should come from core resources and asked if it was a one-time cost. Some delegations asked how the figure of $1 million had been arrived at and requested a more detailed breakdown of the requirements.

149. In her response, the Executive Director thanked the delegations for their pledges and their useful suggestions. She stated that the MYFF constituted a

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very important exercise for UNFPA, and the Fund fully recognized the need to ensure that all concerned were committed to the process. She noted that the extrabudgetary funds requested would, inter alia, allow UNFPA to hold consultations in each region, as well as permit training for both UNFPA staff and government counterparts. She pointed out that although the Fund planned to present a MYFF to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2000, it should be recognized that it would be a work in progress as the transition to a results-based approach would occur over a period of time. In the meanwhile, it was important that the Executive Board assist UNFPA in mobilizing resources. She agreed that the MYFF annual reporting and the pledging by members of the Fund should be synchronized and should take place each year at the Board's second regular session. The Executive Director stated that UNFPA was excited about the new challenge the MYFF presented and regarded it as an innovative instrument that had the potential to strengthen programmes, enhance efficiency and increase resources.

150. The Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) thanked the delegations for their positive comments and suggestions. He expressed the Fund's sincere gratitude to those delegations that had announced their pledges and noted that UNFPA greatly appreciated the efforts of Governments to make their contributions to the Fund early in the year. He also thanked those countries that had shared their experience with UNFPA and had helped the Fund to refine its methodology for the MYFF. With regard to the timing of the presentation of the MYFF to the Executive Board, he stated that UNFPA was confident that it would be able to provide a MYFF at the Board's first regular session 2000. However, the Fund was open to the Board's suggestions on the timing of the MYFF. He reminded the Board that the MYFF process was an evolving one, hence the first MYFF might not be perfect. Referring to the requested extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $1 million, he underscored that the funds were necessary in order for UNFPA to implement the MYFF in a timely way. He pointed out that seeking those funds from core resources would only delay the process and UNFPA would be unable to implement the MYFF in the 18-month period that was currently anticipated. He thanked the delegations that had endorsed and supported the Fund's request for extrabudgetary resources.

151. The Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) agreed with the delegations that had stressed the importance of linking results to resources, and concurred that the MYFF would be an effective tool for both increasing the Fund's efficiency and mobilizing resources. He thanked the delegation that had raised the important point about the need for the MYFF to include contributions from the private sector, including foundations. He added that UNFPA would incorporate that element in the framework. He concurred that it was very important to keep in mind the views of the end-users and programme beneficiaries. He took note of the suggestion that the MYFF processes of UNFPA and UNDP should be synchronized. He stated that UNFPA would continue its open consultative process with its development partners. With regard to the issue of ageing, he noted that it was included in the Fund's population and development strategies.

152. The Director, Division for Finance, Administration and Management Information Services, thanked the delegations for their useful comments and suggestions. He agreed that the pledging and the MYFF reporting should take

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place at the same session. He noted that the Fund expected to be able to present a MYFF to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2000, however, if the framework was not ready by then the Fund would inform the Board accordingly, and would then present the MYFF to the Board at its second regular session 2000.

153. Responding to the comment that the results and indicators mentioned in the document were too broad and general, he noted that for the sake of simplicity, and so as not to overload the document, only a selected list of results and indicators had been included in the paper, however, the Fund had available several indicators for results, for example, in the area of reproductive health. It should be understood that no one indicator would be good for all results. He agreed with the delegation that had suggested that only a few indicators should be selected, and noted that the selected indicators should meet the criteria outlined in the paper and should allow for monitoring. He agreed that the results indicators should be maintained and that it was essential to have qualitative indicators in addition to quantitative indicators. He also agreed that, where available, national indicators and national data systems should be used. He stated that the challenge would be to integrate and aggregate indicators, however, the Fund would use the logframe as a basis to build on. He concurred that point-to-point changes in the baseline would be difficult in the short term, however, that should not be used as a barrier to contributing funds to UNFPA. He thanked the delegation that had made an important suggestion concerning establishing an index to measure results in the area of capacity-building. He also thanked the delegations that had called attention to the need to draw a distinction between "results" to which UNFPA contributed along with other development partners and "outputs" to which UNFPA contributed exclusively and for which it had accountability.

154. Referring to the query concerning the logframes, he confirmed that the logframes analysed came from a broad spectrum of countries covering the A, B, C and other categories. He stated that the Fund would include the HIV/AIDS benchmarks emerging from the ICPD+5 process, as well as other benchmarks that might emerge. Regarding the comment on advocacy, he noted that the Fund distinguished between advocacy for issues that specifically came under its mandate, for example, reproductive health, and advocacy for broader areas such as education for girls. Referring to the query on strategic choices, he pointed out that case studies to asses what worked and what did not would be required.

155. He underscored that the extrabudgetary funds that had been requested were needed to facilitate implementation of the MYFF over the next 18 months. He clarified that the $1 million requested was a one-time cost, and pointed out that paragraphs 64-65 provided a breakdown of the activities for which the funds were being requested. He noted that the Fund was a very small organization and would, inter alia, need some short-term consultants to assist in moving the implementation process forward. The extrabudgetary funds would also allow the Fund to undertake some feasibility studies to test implementation as had been suggested by many delegations, as well as a broad spectrum of training and/or briefing activities.

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156. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

99/5. UNFPA: Multi-year planning, management and funding framework

The Executive Board

1. Reaffirms its decision 98/24 on the United Nations Population Fund funding strategy in which, inter alia, it decided that UNFPA should develop a multi-year funding framework that integrates programme objectives, resources, budget and outcomes, with the objective of increasing core resources, and in this context takes note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director on the multi-year planning, management and funding framework (DP/FPA/1999/CRP.2);

2. Welcomes the steps which the United Nations Population Fund has taken to implement decision 98/24 and requests the Executive Director to continue to develop the multi-year planning, management and funding framework, taking into account the views of the Executive Board in this regard and fully respecting the principles contained in decision 98/24;

3. Requests the Executive Director to aim to submit to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2000 the first multi-year framework, 2000-2003; and decides to hold the first funding session as outlined in paragraph 11(b) of decision 98/24 at its second regular session 2000;

4. Requests the Executive Director, in further developing the multi-year planning, management and funding framework beyond 2000, to ensure that the funding session and the annual reporting on the framework are both held at the second regular session in accordance with the principles contained in decision 98/24;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue to hold regular open-ended informal consultations with States members of the United Nations Population Fund on the further development and implementation of the multi-year planning, management and funding framework.

16 April 1999

X. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

157. The Executive Board had before it a report entitled "UNFPA support for reproductive health in emergency situations" (DP/FPA/1999/6).

158. In introducing the report the Senior Coordination Officer, Technical and Policy Division (TPD), stated at the outset that UNFPA was not a humanitarian assistance agency. The Fund's mandate was to support population programmes focusing on reproductive health, including sexual health and family planning; population and development strategies; and advocacy. In pursuing its mandate to assist in ensuring that populations had access to services and information to protect their reproductive health, UNFPA was often placed squarely in the midst of humanitarian/emergency situations. In recent years, following the

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Fund's activities in conflict, emergency and natural disaster situations had become noticeable. UNFPA country offices had been called upon to respond rapidly to emergency/crisis situations resulting from war, civil strife and/or natural disasters. She underscored that UNFPA had made considerable progress in the area of ensuring that refugees and displaced persons had access to basic reproductive health services and information. Since 1994, 52 UNFPA-supported emergency reproductive health projects had been carried out in 33 countries in collaboration with 24 executing agencies, at a cost of $6.4 million. UNFPA was active in the needs assessments led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and also participated in the meetings of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) of OCHA.

159. She noted that the UNFPA Emergency Relief Adviser worked closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who had, inter alia, developed the Inter-agency Working Group on Reproductive Health for Refugees. The Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) was developed for the rapid provision of reproductive health in emergency/crisis situations. She stated that the Fund's advocacy had been critical to the growing recognition that reproductive health must be an integral component of the health and social services required by refugees and displaced persons. She observed that as part of the ICPD+5 review and appraisal process UNFPA had organized a technical meeting in Rennes, France, on reproductive health in crisis situations. UNFPA had also been reviewing its past experience and had identified the need to refine guidelines for its activities in emergency/crisis situations, and to look more closely at funding modalities. The report before the Executive Board (DP/FPA/1999/6) was part of that review process. She emphasized that UNFPA was not seeking additional funds but was asking the Board to endorse the flexible use of small amounts of regular programme funds. She added that the Fund would of course make efforts to raise additional funds for reproductive health in emergency/crisis situations, including through United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals.

160. During the discussion that followed, numerous delegations commended UNFPA for its efforts in supporting reproductive health in emergency/crisis situations and recognized the need to allow the Fund greater flexibility in responding to such situations. However, while many delegations supported the Fund's need to have greater flexibility in using regular resources, some delegations cautioned that regular country programme resources should not be diverted to emergency assistance. Several delegations underscored the need to raise additional funds for emergency assistance, particularly through the United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals process. Numerous delegations encouraged UNFPA to continue participating in the appeals process. Several delegations pointed out that additional details and further clarification were needed regarding the role UNFPA wished to play in the field of emergency assistance, including information on the modifications required in the Fund's administrative procedures to do so.

161. Many delegations praised UNFPA for working collaboratively with the frontline humanitarian assistance agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Federation of

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The delegations encouraged UNFPA to expand such partnerships with United Nations agencies and NGOs, and stressed that the Fund should play an advocacy role in promoting the inclusion of reproductive health services in the work of those agencies. A number of delegations commended the Fund's useful role in helping to build demographic databases. Some delegations pointed out the importance of ensuring that sexually- transmitted disease (STD)/AIDS prevention and the protection of reproductive rights were included in the package of reproductive health services provided to refugees and other people in emergency/crisis situations. Several delegations asked UNFPA to present more specific details on what it was proposing to do in the area of reproductive health in emergency and post-emergency situations. Drawing attention to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, some delegations stated that it should serve as the basis of the Fund's support in emergency/crisis situations.

162. One delegation, drawing attention to the refugee crisis in the Kosovo province of Yugoslavia and recalling the tragic suffering endured by refugees in the Great Lakes area of Central Africa and by survivors of natural disasters in Central America and elsewhere, underscored that the international community must attend to the urgent reproductive health needs of people in emergency/crisis situations. The delegation noted that its Government attached great importance to helping refugees and other displaced persons and had last year devoted $500 million to overseas assistance activities for refugees and migrants in 125 countries. The delegation thanked UNFPA for its prompt response to the Kosovo crisis and to other emergency situations, and for its strong advocacy to include basic reproductive health needs on the list of essential services provided to refugees and others in emergencies. The delegation urged the international community to attend to the urgent reproductive health needs of people in crisis situations. The delegation stated that it supported the major recommendations of the technical meeting organized by UNFPA in 1998 in Rennes, France, on reproductive health in crisis situations, and hoped that those recommendations would be fully reflected in the Fund's efforts to improve its support for reproductive health in emergency situations.

163. The delegation stated that given the Fund's limited human and financial resources, UNFPA should focus its efforts on organizing and institutionalizing the delivery of reproductive health and related assistance in crisis situations. It did not anticipate any significant increase in UNFPA staff or funding to support reproductive health in emergencies at the field level, and encouraged UNFPA to work through the Inter-Agency Working Group in Geneva, with a focus on the comparative advantages of the entities involved. The delegation noted that the Inter-Agency Field Manual and the MISP were conceptual in nature, and actual service delivery needed to be systemized, including the dissemination of procedural guidelines to trained field workers. It underscored the importance of including Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in those efforts. The same delegation stated that UNFPA support for reproductive health in the initial emergency stage of a crisis should be funded through United Nations donor alerts, and that for post-emergency phase activities United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals should be a major funding source. The delegation suggested that UNFPA explore ways to institutionalize the payment of various costs, such

as the cost of emergency reproductive health kits that UNFPA supplied, through other agencies with refugee and health care mandates.

164. Another delegation stated that it did not support the line of action proposed in document (DP/FPA/1998/6). It was impressed by the work undertaken by UNFPA in emergency/crisis situations but was concerned by the Fund's seeking deeper involvement in humanitarian activities. The delegation stressed that resources allocated for development should be used for development and not for short-term emergency activities. It therefore urged UNFPA to continue its cooperation with ECHA, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) of OCHA, IOM, IFRC and other similar agencies and to focus on awareness-building and training for reproductive health needs and rights in emergency situations. The delegation did not think it was necessary for UNFPA to seek outside funding for humanitarian activities. The delegation suggested that at the Executive Board's third regular session UNFPA should present further information outlining the work it wished to support in emergency/crisis situations.

165. One delegation welcomed the Fund's close partnership with other actors in emergency assistance such as UNHCR and IFRC, as well as the close cooperation with OCHA and ECHA. Highlighting the need to emphasize gender issues and to further gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations system, the delegation noted that UNFPA had a role to play in that regard, together with other United Nations agencies and organizations. The delegation endorsed the proposal set out in document DP/FPA/1999/6 to increase flexibility in the use of resources in order for UNFPA to carry out tasks more effectively in emergency/crisis situations. Another delegation emphasized that reproductive health care should be combined with basic health care. The delegation stated that UNFPA should have the flexibility to reprogramme country funds for emergency/crisis situations; however, since the Fund's core resources were limited, UNFPA should limit its use of regular resources to the minimum.

166. One delegation underscored that people in emergency situations had the same rights to reproductive health as people in normal situations. The delegation welcomed the Fund's efforts in taking action to ensure access to essential sexual and reproductive health commodities and other services during emergency/crisis situations, and agreed that the Fund had a useful role to play in the demographic aspects of planning in emergency situations. The delegation noted that the support provided in Rwanda was an excellent example of such work. The delegation stressed that the Fund's role in emergency situations was to provide support for services that other organizations such as UNHCR and NGOs were better placed to deliver. Referring to paragraph 23 of the document, the delegation asked to know more about the circumstances under which direct project implementation was envisaged. The delegation also asked to have a clearer idea of where and on what UNFPA support had focused in the last five years; the effectiveness of that work; the sources of funding; and the systems for accountability and measuring impact.

167. The same delegation asked what the implications for country programme arrangements and resources would be if country programme funds were reprogrammed for emergency/crisis situations. The delegation asked if UNFPA intended to set a ceiling or percentage of funds that could be used for emergency/crisis situations. The delegation stated that a regional or global contingency fund

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might be a more appropriate way of dealing with emergency needs than reprogramming country programme funds. In many cases, it was the countries of origin and destination for refugee populations that tended to have fragile health systems most in need of long-term country programme support. The delegation noted that it was interested to know about the exit strategy procedures UNFPA had in place for emergency situations.

168. Another delegation stated that UNFPA should concentrate on providing reproductive health services, including reproductive health kits, and information in emergency/crisis situations. It added that UNFPA should provide the medical personnel of humanitarian agencies with instructions and standardized guidelines on how to integrate reproductive health care in basic health care activities. The delegation noted that UNFPA should refrain from direct execution of projects. The delegation stated that it was prepared to allow the Fund a high degree of flexibility but that UNFPA should first present clear-cut proposals on the kind of flexibility it needed to fulfil its role in emergency/crisis situations. One delegation paid tribute to UNFPA for the support provided to its country during its emergency. The delegation stated that it had concerns about the issue of repatriation of refugees.

169. Another delegation stated that the number of refugees and internally displaced persons was unlikely to decrease in the near future. Most of the population movements were occurring in developing countries, and the host developing countries lacked the resources to meet the needs of the refugees. The delegation appreciated the Fund's role in providing assistance in emergency/crisis situations and stated that the required changes in UNFPA financial procedures should be made to allow the Fund the flexibility to respond to emergency/crisis situations. The delegation also welcomed the strengthening of partnerships between UNFPA and other agencies, including NGOs, working in the area of emergency humanitarian assistance. One delegation stressed that assistance for reproductive health care should also be provided when natural disasters occurred. The delegation stated that it fully supported the Fund's request to have flexibility in the use of resources. Another delegation, while recognizing that UNFPA was not a frontline humanitarian assistance agency, underscored that the Fund could play a key role in narrowing the gap between emergency relief and development assistance. One delegation asked in which instances, other than procurement, UNFPA undertook direct execution of projects.

170. One delegation emphasized that humanitarian assistance must continue to be based on neutrality, impartiality, full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the national unity of States, and should be provided with the consent of the affected countries and on their appeal. Furthermore, it must respect the primacy of the role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory. The delegation stated that within those parameters it would support all humanitarian activities under the United Nations aegis, including those of UNFPA. The delegation underscored that funds for humanitarian assistance must be additional to the scarce resources allocated for development. Flexible allocation of limited country programme funds would not promote that. The delegation emphasized that the Agreed Conclusions of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/1 adopted at the Council's first Humanitarian Affairs Segment had clearly noted that the United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian

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Appeals process remained the principal resource mobilization tool for humanitarian assistance.

171. The same delegation cautioned that demographic databases were a crucial component and an underlying cause of situations that led to refugee movements. Referring to the Fund's proposals contained in paragraph 27 to use those databases to document human rights abuses, the delegation stated that that could impact the Fund's role as a neutral partner. The same delegation asked to know the extent of funding or underfunding of UNFPA proposals submitted under the consolidated appeals process. The delegation asked how UNFPA coordinated its activities in emergency situations with those of other agencies, for example, UNHCR, which had a General Initiative Fund for Refugee Women. Referring to paragraph 27, the delegation asked for a clarification on the phrase "non-displaced but war-affected populations".

172. Another delegation stressed that reproductive health services were an integral component of basic health care and it was essential that such services were provided to populations in emergency/crisis situations. The delegation added that UNFPA had a critical role to play in providing demographic expertise for the collection of data and the re-establishment of databases in post-emergency and post-crisis situations. The delegation observed that resources for those activities should come primarily from consolidated donor appeals and from reprogramming funds at the country level. The delegation cautioned that UNFPA should not become too deeply involved in project implementation in emergency/crisis situations and should focus instead on providing technical support to the relevant United Nations and other frontline humanitarian assistance agencies.

173. One delegation stated that reproductive health needs, though vital, were normally not given priority in emergency/crisis situations. The delegation was therefore pleased with the Fund's role in advocating for the inclusion of reproductive health services in humanitarian assistance. Recognizing the need for flexibility in the use of regular resources, the delegation urged the Executive Board to support the Fund's request for such flexibility. The delegation hoped that in the future funding for emergency/crisis situations would be sourced separately; in the meantime, however, given that the percentage of UNFPA resources allocated to emergency/crisis situations was very small, the Fund's use of those resources would not threaten regular programming.

174. One delegation, speaking also on behalf of another delegation, welcomed the agreements UNFPA had signed with IOM, IFRC and UNHCR, and noted with appreciation the Fund's role in organizing the technical meeting in Rennes on reproductive health in emergency situations. The delegation stated that it would like further details on the elements of reproductive health being supported by the Fund in emergency/crisis situations. Noting that the Fund had carried out 52 projects since 1994 at a cost of $6.4 million, the delegation asked to know more about the impact of the projects, the problems encountered and the lessons learned. The delegation added that it would have liked to have seen recognition in the report of the role of the Commission on Population and Development. The delegation stated that UNFPA was not a primary player in the field of emergency assistance and should confine itself to the boundaries of its mandate. Referring to the issue of flexibility, the delegation noted that there

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were two levels of flexibility: programming flexibility that allowed for customizing programmes to suit country-specific situations and financial flexibility that allowed for seeking other sources of funding. The delegation stated that UNFPA, together with other development partners, should try to determine why the United Nations Coordinated Humanitarian Appeals were not working well.

175. Another delegation stated that there should be a well-defined procedure for the flexible use of funds for emergency/crisis situations, however, that should not interfere with regular funding for country programmes. One delegation asked about the stockpiling of emergency reproductive health kits and about how wide the level of distribution had been. The delegation emphasized the need for staff training. The delegation, while agreeing that there should be a division of labour among agencies and organizations working in the field of emergency/crisis situations, pointed out that in such situations it was not always possible to have strict lines of division. Another delegation, stressing the need to alleviate the suffering of human beings in emergency/crisis situations, suggested that, given the need for quick and flexible access to funds, consideration should be given to establishing a revolving fund or a trust fund to support reproductive health activities undertaken in emergency/crisis situations. The delegation also asked why it was not possible to use funding from relief assistance instead of using development funds for relief.

176. One delegation asked if any country programme resources were earmarked for emergency assistance and expressed concern that resources for such assistance might exceed the resources for regular country programmes. The delegation asked whether the emergency assistance resources came from the country programme funds of the host country or the country of origin of the refugees. The delegation inquired about the variance in the UNHCR and UNFPA figures on refugees and asked to be provided with a copy of the emergency kit. The delegation added that it was gratified to hear that the Fund did not wish to become a frontline humanitarian assistance agency.

177. One delegation, speaking also on behalf of another delegation, thanked the Fund for its response to the need for reproductive health services in emergency/crisis situations. The delegation noted that the primary role for UNFPA should be to support advocacy to ensure that other agencies involved in providing humanitarian assistance included reproductive health services. The delegation added that the Fund should not directly execute projects in that area. The delegation stated that further efforts should be directed to ensuring that United Nations Consolidated Appeals functioned more effectively. The delegation stated that additional details were required concerning the administrative procedures that needed to be modified to allow the Fund to respond with greater flexibility in emergency/crisis situations.

178. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their useful and supportive comments. She noted that UNFPA had played a key role in promoting the inclusion of reproductive health care in the services offered by frontline humanitarian assistance agencies in emergency/crisis situations. For example, UNHCR now provided reproductive health services, including rape counselling and rape management. UNFPA had also signed a memorandum of understanding with IFRC. She stated that in emergency/crisis situations the reproductive health package was invariably referred to UNFPA for funding even though UNFPA was not a

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frontline agency. She noted that UNFPA participated in ECHA and the IASC and its role was to promote and advocate for reproductive health care, including the provision of emergency reproductive health kits. The Executive Director underscored that it was important to recognize that reproductive health needs continued in emergency/crisis situations. Women were particularly vulnerable in such situations and should be protected from sexual violence and its consequences and should have access to reproductive health services, including family planning. She emphasized that UNFPA did not wish to become a frontline agency in emergency/crisis situations.

179. The Executive Director pointed out that UNFPA had expended very small amounts of funding for providing support in emergency/crisis situations; that included some multi-bilateral funds provided by the Government's of Belgium, Canada and Sweden. She stated that UNFPA needed some flexibility to access funds for reproductive health care in emergency/crisis situations. She observed that the European Commission had indicated that it would be willing to enter into an agreement with UNFPA to enable the Fund to seek funding from the European Community's Humanitarian Office (ECHO), but UNFPA first had to provide a policy position regarding its work in emergency/crisis situations. She added that UNFPA would be pleased to report annually to the Executive Board on its work in emergency/crisis situations, if the Board so wished. She noted that UNFPA participated in ECHA and was engaged in the discussions on relief, rehabilitation and development. She noted that humanitarian assistance could also be used for bridging the gap from relief to development. She observed that no one agency had exclusive responsibility for that area. She added that UNFPA would certainly abide by the General Assembly resolution and the Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions concerning humanitarian emergency assistance. She agreed that perhaps the way to proceed might be for UNFPA to present a report to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1999, delineating various options for the Fund's work and involvement in emergency/crisis situations. She concluded by thanking the Board for its support.

180. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their comments and stated that one of the Fund's main roles was to undertake advocacy, particularly among the humanitarian agencies, and in ECHA, to ensure that the need for reproductive health care in emergency and post-emergency phases was clearly understood. She pointed out that the funds expended by UNFPA to support activities in emergency/crisis situations had been very small and had not exceeded 1 per cent of UNFPA regular resources. She agreed that the United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals were important and useful when they worked; however, the appeals had not been successful in generating the needed funds. She noted that just recently UNFPA had had discussions with IOM concerning collaboration and the integration of reproductive health in the medical work of IOM. She stressed the need for greater flexibility and simpler procedures in the use of funds for reproductive health in emergency/crisis situations. She observed that where it had not been possible to use country programme funds regional funds had been used.

181. Concerning the issue of the direct execution of projects, the Deputy Executive Director noted that UNFPA had a key role in providing technical assistance and would need to continue expending funds in that area. She added that UNFPA Country Support Teams had also been drawn on for providing technical

assistance in emergency/crisis situations. She observed that since not all agencies were involved in supplying emergency reproductive health kits, UNFPA had had to assume responsibility for supplying kits. She emphasized the need for some limited contingency funds of a fluid nature that could be rapidly accessed to meet reproductive health care needs in emergency/crisis situations, including the need for emergency kits. She thanked the Executive Board for its support and stated that UNFPA would continue to participate in the United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals.

182. The Senior Coordination Officer thanked the delegations for their comments and questions. She emphasized that the funds used for emergency/crisis situations were small in amount, often ranging from $10,000 to $20,000. She stressed that what was needed most was the flexibility to have access to funds within a 48-hour period. She noted that the Fund had participated in the United Nations Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals; however, not much success had been achieved. Nevertheless, as suggested by several delegations, UNFPA would continue to actively participate in the consolidated appeals process. She noted that in the past UNFPA had not always been included in the appeals. She observed that in 1998 UNFPA had obtained multi-bilateral funds from the Governments of Canada, Italy and the Netherlands to support emergency activities. She added that thus far in 1999, UNFPA had participated in 12 appeals.

183. She agreed with the delegation that had stressed that reproductive health care should be integrated with basic health care. She noted that UNFPA was working towards that end along with the United Nations Children's Fund, WHO and other concerned agencies. She also agreed that reproductive health care should be provided to people affected by natural disasters. She noted that UNFPA was deeply committed to ensuring gender mainstreaming in the services provided in emergency/crisis situations, including ensuring that women and girls were protected in refugee camps. Women and girls were very vulnerable to sexual violence and gender discrimination in such situations. She also noted that many adolescent programmes in refugee situations focused on preventing violence. She concurred that emergency activities should include HIV/AIDS prevention and the protection of reproductive rights.

184. Concerning the situation in the Kosovo province of Yugoslavia, she noted that about three months before the crisis UNFPA had carried out a reproductive health needs assessment in the province of Kosovo. When the emergency occurred, the UNFPA adviser had met with the representatives of UNHCR and IFRC so as to be able to respond rapidly to the needs of the refugees, including the provision of emergency reproductive health kits. She underscored that in providing emergency assistance to the Kosovars it was important not to forget the emergency/crisis situations in other parts of the world, including in countries in Africa and Asia. She agreed that the issue of repatriation was very important, and pointed out that UNFPA had projects focusing on education and services for returning refugees.

185. In responding to a query about the Fund's partners, she noted that UNFPA partners included UNHCR, WHO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, IOM and 22 NGOs, including IFRC, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, CARE (Cooperative for American Relief

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Everywhere), Save the Children, and the Girl Guides. She stated that an important lesson learned was that it was essential to work with local NGOs, since in many emergency and conflict situations the international staff of various agencies were evacuated. She agreed on the importance of training and noted that a donor had expressed interest in supporting the training of UNFPA staff, as well as training for the staff of other agencies. Regarding the query on "non-displaced but war-affected populations", she clarified that the reference was to population groups that had not been physically displaced but were affected by damaged infrastructure and disrupted services resulting from war. Concerning the subject of demographic databases, she agreed that they could be politically sensitive. She noted that basically the Fund was focusing on providing assistance for assessments and data collection and analysis to support planning and rehabilitation. In response to a query on indicators and evaluations, she noted that UNFPA was undertaking evaluations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania. She added that an inter-agency group was also focusing on indicators and performance measures.

186. With regard to the reprogramming of funds from country programmes, the Senior Coordination Officer noted that frequently it only involved a shifting of resources for a temporary period. She clarified that country programme funds were only used for emergency/crisis situations with the agreement of the concerned Government. In response to a query, she noted that at the suggestion of the Government of Azerbaijan, the UNFPA programme of assistance to Azerbaijan had included a specific amount set aside to meet the needs of a large number of internally displaced persons. Responding to a query on project execution by UNFPA, she noted that while UNFPA did not implement projects in emergency/crisis situations it did on occasion execute certain project components, for example, procurement from abroad or international training. On the question concerning stockpiling emergency reproductive health kits, she noted that in the past the supply of kits had been undertaken through a revolving fund; however, the fund had not been large enough to meet all the demands and there had been a stockout last year. She clarified that the initial emergency kit had not included reproductive health care. Subsequently, an inter-agency group, including UNFPA and WHO, as well as various NGOs, had worked together to develop an emergency reproductive health kit. The kit was now included in the WHO catalogue.

187. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

99/6. UNFPA: UNFPA support for reproductive health in emergency situations

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director on UNFPA support for reproductive health in emergency situations (DP/FPA/1999/6);

2. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1999, taking into account all the views expressed at the second regular session 1999, a report that contains concrete proposals on UNFPA emergency programming procedures.

16 April 1999

UNDP segment

Statement by Administrator

188. The Administrator addressed the Executive Board on the topic "UNDP Today". He also gave an update on UNDP activities in relation to the crisis in Kosovo, human rights and development, the follow-up to Hurricane Mitch, and Y2K compliance.

189. UNDP had come a long way in developing a new profile, the Administrator informed the Executive Board, resulting in an organization that was relevant to contemporary, priority development concerns. Services were focused and UNDP was a much more active player in the wider efforts of the United Nations. The Board had played a decisive role in shaping the different facets of the new UNDP through its landmark decisions 94/14 and 95/22. Thanks to the Board's leadership, UNDP was making distinctive, country-specific contributions in each of its major programme areas, with overall focus having been sharpened by the guiding principles adopted in decision 98/1. The organization had reallocated its resources and shifted its programming at the country level in accordance with the Board's guidance. UNDP was also becoming a more streamlined, cohesive and results-oriented development institution within the context of UNDP 2001, its design for change. UNDP was moving rapidly to put in place its new results-based reporting system.

190. UNDP served as the main development arm of the United Nations in areas of fundamental importance and now worked more closely with the organizations of the system, Governments and civil society to build peace, promote national reconciliation and surround humanitarian crises with development opportunities. The organization was also helping to translate the global compacts of the decade into regional and country action programmes, in particular the poverty and governance goals of the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In the context of United Nations reform, UNDP was enhancing its role as manager and funder of the resident coordinator system and was working in partnerships with other funds and programmes within the United Nations country team to increase the impact of United Nations operations at the country level.

191. It was at the country level that UNDP continued to make a major difference. Attached to the distributed version of his statement was a paper with 25 illustrations of the work of UNDP in its main programme areas. Those examples demonstrated how UNDP today was a vital, responsive and distinctive partner.

192. The Administrator then gave a series of examples, also contained in the paper distributed, of UNDP achievements. They included activities within the framework of governance, including those in Albania, Burundi, Guatemala, Indonesia, and within the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People. In the area of poverty and sustainable development, UNDP was assisting more than 100 countries to survey the extent and demographics of poverty, formulating action plans and helping to overcome weaknesses in national capacities. The 1998 UNDP report, "Overcoming Human Poverty", was an overview of national achievements in fulfilling the goals of WSSD to date. UNDP had also supported the preparation of some 114 national human development reports.

193. To target support to Africa, UNDP had co-chaired the Administrative Committee on Coordination's Steering Committee of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. UNDP had also helped to orchestrate the combined efforts of the United Nations system in targeting poverty.

194. The Administrator underlined that the projects reported on in the annex to his statement underscored the continuing relevance of the work of UNDP on the great development challenges of the current world.

XI. FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

195. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Financial and Administrative Services presented a brief summary of the report of the Administrator on UNDP financial risk management and review of the operational reserve contained in document DP/1999/5/Rev.1 and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) contained in document DP/1999/26.

196. She stated that the review was undertaken to cover three major elements: the adequacy of the current level of the operational reserve for regular resources; a definition of the term "liquidity" in the context of UNDP activities; and the need for a separate reserve to cover risks associated with the management by UNDP of other resources.

197. The Assistant Administrator summarized the major concerns expressed by ACABQ in its review of document DP/1999/5/Rev.1: (a) the impact on programming from an increase in the reserve level had not been addressed in the paper; (b) a question about the need to revise the formula for the regular resources reserve when the reserve had been used only once in prior years; and (c) a view that the revised formula was too theoretical.

198. She informed the Executive Board of the views of UNDP regarding the concerns expressed by ACABQ. She noted that the current level of the reserve would not be greatly changed as a result of the new formula being applied and in fact introduced greater transparency and stability given its use of historical versus forecast information. She commented that limited prior use of the reserve did not represent any indication of future need, noting that UNDP had had ample excess liquidity in prior years.

199. The Assistant Administrator then requested the Executive Board to consider the use of the formula, with a downward adjustment to the coefficient for liability risk from 25 per cent to 10 per cent. The change would be responsive to ACABQ comments and would give UNDP a reserve of $183 million, approximately the same size as the current reserve.

200. One delegation requested that the consideration of the new formula be postponed to the annual session 1999, noting that some Governments had not had time to fully reflect upon the report of ACABQ.

201. The Executive Board took note of the report on UNDP financial risk management and the review of operational reserve (DP/1999/5/Rev.1) and the

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report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on UNDP financial risk management and review of operational reserve (DP/1999/26) and decided to resume consideration of the documents at its annual session 1999.

XII. UNDP: COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

Country cooperation framework

202. The Executive Board approved the first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Aruba (DP/CCF/ARU/1 and Corr.1).

Assistance to Somalia

203. The Assistance Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for the Arab States gave a short introduction to update the Executive Board on the status of UNDP activities in Somalia, highlighting aspects of the report by the Administrator (DP/1999/11). Given the situation in the country and because of a lack of a central government, UNDP activities had been approved and implemented on a project-by-project basis. All activities were managed from Nairobi because of the security situation in Mogadiscio. UNDP worked directly with three strata of Somali society - civil society; the economic actors, namely, the entrepreneurs; and the emerging public institutions in some parts of Somalia, in addition to international non-governmental organizations.

204. In terms of geographic concentration, UNDP worked within three zones, known as the zones of recovery, transition and crisis, centred on three main areas of intervention - empowerment of civil society and the strengthening of administrative structures, the promotion of an enabling environment for ecovery, and capacity-building and rehabilitation and reintegration.

205. He went on to highlight some of the results and main achievements in the areas of intervention listed above, particularly in the de-mining, civil protection and civic education programmes, as well as in the sub-programme on promotion for economic recovery, particularly in the critical issues on ports and trade activities. Under the rehabilitation programme, UNDP was present in five separate regions of the country. The programme had to date helped to improve irrigation canals and traditional water supplies and had established small credit schemes with a strong emphasis on empowering women. As of the current year, the rehabilitation programme would concentrate on selected districts for the capacity-building of their local administrations. Finally, in the field of urban settlements, UNDP had been supporting five municipalities in the north-west and north-east of the country. UNDP had provided support and had helped to improve living conditions in the areas of urban planning, water supplies, sanitation and finance.

206. From the resource mobilization aspect, UNDP had a programme of $29 million for the period 1998-2001, in addition to some $6 million which was being provided in the form of multi-bilateral cost-sharing or in the form of trust funds. On the issue of coordination, the United Nations country team and the Somali aid coordination body had produced a United Nations Consolidated Appeal (CAP), which constituted the only comprehensive document for the intervention of

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the international aid community in Somalia. The launch of the 1999 CAP took place in Geneva in December 1998, based on the need of $65 million, of which some 10 per cent so far had been secured. The United Nations system team had been working more closely over the previous few months and a working retreat led by the Resident Coordinator was scheduled to take place at the end of April 1999 in order to prepare the strategy for the United Nations system for the next year.

207. UNDP would be launching the strategic results framework (SRF) in 1999, and the first draft of the SRF for Somalia was under preparation. In addition, UNDP intended to undertake an impact assessment of the programme later in 1999. A quarterly review was already under way, in preparation for the SRF and for the more in-depth impact assessment later in the year. UNDP viewed the issue of accountability for the funds received from donor partners as an area that had to be strengthened. The Assistant Administrator assured the members of the Executive Board that the Regional Bureau for the Arab States, together with the team in Somalia, would work very hard towards that goal.

208. One delegation observed that the situation in Somalia was clearly challenging, especially in the southern and central parts of the country, where the crippled state of infrastructure, the absence of peace, the lack of national government and rampant unemployment all contributed to making successful development efforts difficult from the outset. The delegation commended UNDP for taking responsibility for tackling the task. It seemed that only the most dedicated individuals would be willing to be part of that effort. The delegation was also glad to hear that 28 per cent of projects focused on the north-west and north-east of Somalia, which were areas of relative stability. Reports from the delegation's field office indicated that activities included the important areas of de-mining and government rehabilitation. Currently, the speaker's Government was working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help to repatriate 250,000 refugees in Ethiopia back to north-west Somalia, where conditions were more stable than in the rest of the country. Developmental aid programmes were critical to the success of that reintegration.

209. The delegation had received distressing reports about internal problems in the UNDP Somalia programme and difficulties in coordination between the UNDP team and UNHCR. According to its latest information, however, it appeared that the problems were on the way towards resolution. The delegation also understood that there had been some recent turnover of staff, and asked when UNDP thought the new team would arrive. With all the changes that had occurred in the programme, what steps had UNDP taken to ensure continuity in ongoing projects, many of which had already been delayed? The delegation stated that it would appreciate a review by UNDP of the recent events in the UNDP office in Somalia. In the meantime, the delegation had forwarded specific questions and comments to the secretariat. They looked forward to learning about what UNDP was doing to resolve the problems in that important programme. The delegation regarded past UNDP activities in north-west Somalia as playing an important role in bringing a measure of stability to the region and would like to see those activities continue successfully.

210. The Assistant Administrator thanked delegations for their support, including support on the ground in Somalia. The Regional Bureau for the Arab States stood ready to provide any additional information desired by delegations on all the activities in Somalia, which, as had been pointed out, took place in a very difficult set of circumstances. On the issue of reintegration, that was one of the major areas of UNDP activities, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, including UNHCR and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), among others. If there had been some misunderstandings in the past, they were on the way to being resolved. The misunderstanding had to do with the issues of the pace of the return of the refugees and the preparedness of Somalia, with UNDP assistance, for their proper reintegration. There had recently been a joint UNHCR/UNICEF/UNDP mission that had devised a common assessment and plan of action in order to deal with that issue in the area of Hargeisa. There had been some issues affecting the management of the country office. As delegations were aware, UNDP had many country offices around the world and it was normal that occasional concerns arose. UNDP took the matter very seriously and was moving quickly to resolve it. Nominations had already been sought for the posts of Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and UNDP had a number of candidates. The Assistant Administrator assured the members of the Board that UNDP would promptly select the very best for the challenging assignment in Somalia. In the interim, UNDP headquarters was monitoring the programme closely. Moreover, all projects were led by international chief technical advisors on the ground. Therefore, UNDP was confident that it could ensure that the smooth transition on the operational side would be ensured.

211. The Executive Board took note of the report on assistance to Somalia contained in document DP/1999/11 with the comments made thereon and authorized the Administrator to continue to approve projects in Somalia on a case-by-case basis.

Assistance to Montserrat

212. The Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean introduced the note by the Administrator on assistance to Montserrat (DP/1999/12 and Corr.1). The note by the Administrator presented a request for case-by-case basis approval of projects with the Government of Montserrat as an interim measure. Following a series of volcanic eruptions from 1995 to 1997, UNDP had requested the postponement of the Executive Board's approval of the CCF for Montserrat at the third regular session 1997 of the Executive Board, in favour of the provision of further emergency and rehabilitation support to the Government. At its annual session in 1998, the Board was appraised of developments with respect to Montserrat and attention was drawn to the need to examine the country's net contributor country status, in view of the volcano's devastating impact. Since that time, support to the Government has continued. UNDP assisted, among other things, in reviewing the draft sustainable development plan for Montserrat, which had been approved, and participated as an observer in the discussion of the country policy paper between the Governments of Montserrat and the United Kingdom. Further emergency support had been finalized and was being provided through a joint collaboration involving the two Governments, UNDP and United Nations Volunteers. With these various processes ongoing through most of 1998,

the Government had expressed a clear wish to proceed more slowly with the preparation of a new CCF. Foremost among the concerns was the need to finalize the sustainable development plan as a basis for developing a longer-term programme of support with UNDP. The process for elaborating a new CCF was expected to begin in earnest in the second half of 1999, with a CCF anticipated for presentation to the Board in early 2000. Approval of the case-by-case request would therefore facilitate the continuation of the UNDP current programme of support, pending the finalization of the CCF.

213. The Executive Board took note of the note by the Administrator on assistance to Montserrat (DP/1999/12 and Corr.1) and authorized the Administrator to approve projects in Montserrat on a case-by-case basis.

Preliminary earmarkings for the target for resource assignment from the core for the period 2001-2003

214. The Director of the Division for Resource Planning and Coordination gave a brief presentation of document DP/1999/27, which had been prepared in response to Executive Board decision 99/2 and presented the preliminary earmarkings for the target for resource assignment from the core line 1.1.1 (TRAC 1) for the three-year period 2001-2003. The earmarkings had been calculated in accordance with the distribution methodology approved by the Board, and were based on an annual core resource target of $1.1 billion. Final TRAC 1 earmarkings, taking into account any material revisions in 1997 per capita gross national product, would be submitted to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2000. As also agreed, when releasing resources during the period, the Administrator, as authorized and as necessary, would adjust programming levels for all programme lines proportionately, in accordance with estimates of available core resources.

215. The Executive Board took note of the report on preliminary earmarkings for the target for resource assignment from the core for the period 2001-2003 (DP/1999/27).

XIII. OTHER MATTERS

Coordinating Committee on Health

216. The Executive Board approved the selection of the representatives of the Western Europe and Other States group, Dr. Carol Vlassoff (Canada) as member and Dr. Yves Bergevin (Canada) as alternate; and of the Latin America and Caribbean group, Mr. Enrique Miguel Comendeiro Hernandez (Cuba) as member and Mr. Pedro Morales (Cuba) as alternate, to serve on the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health for a one-year term.

UNFPA programme in Peru

217. At the request of the Executive Board, UNFPA provided a briefing on the programme supported in Peru. The Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, welcomed the opportunity to share with the Board some of the developments that had taken place in Peru's national programme on reproductive

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health and family planning. She noted that beginning in late 1997 there had been wide press coverage and attention focused on sterilization services in the country when allegations of abuse had surfaced. For obvious reasons, UNFPA had been very concerned from the beginning and had followed the situation closely. At the present time, assurances had been received from national authorities that proper mechanisms had been put in place to ensure that sterilization services, and the reproductive health programme in general, were clearly guided by high standards of quality of care and respect for the reproductive rights of individuals. UNFPA had actively supported the process to ensure that coercive practices and abuses were prevented, and that reproductive rights were guaranteed and remained at the forefront of the family planning programme.

218. She noted that the Director, Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programme, Ministry of Health, Peru, would provide a brief history and an update of the investigation and follow-up steps taken by the Government. Briefly stated, the reports made available indicated that there had been no forced mass sterilizations as had been alleged in the international press. What was clearly detected were cases of abuse, poor quality of services, inadequate monitoring, insufficient counselling to ensure full information and informed choice, and a lack of patient follow-up. The existence of programme goals resulted in overzealous approaches to promote surgical contraception that had resulted in some abuses. In response to its investigations, in March 1998, the Ministry of Health reiterated that quotas were contrary to national policy and the reproductive health and family planning programme was modified to focus on helping men and women reach their reproductive goals. A series of measures had been implemented to guarantee the principles of free and informed choice, and to improve quality of care.

219. The Director underscored that the Fund's efforts in the country had supported the implementation of the measures introduced by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental groups, and other agencies. Those measures fell squarely within the context of the ongoing UNFPA country programme for 1997-2001, which focused on improving quality of care and promoting sexual and reproductive rights. UNFPA support centred on strengthening the managerial and technical capacities of health providers, and on training them in sexual and reproductive rights, gender, and socio-cultural issues. With reference to the Fund's role in responding to the problems detected in the national programme, the Director noted that at the request of the Ministry of Health, in February 1998, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and UNFPA had carried out a joint technical review mission that had confirmed that sterilization was prioritized over other methods, and that quality of care issues required immediate attention. The recommendations contained in the PAHO/UNFPA report submitted to the Ministry reinforced those presented by the Ombudsperson's Office, and were incorporated in the final measures introduced by the Ministry to improve the national programme. Since March 1998, UNFPA had provided ongoing guidance and technical and financial support to ensure that International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) principles were fully reflected in the programme, including a clear emphasis on ensuring informed choice. The National Tripartite Commission on Population and Development, created in August 1997 with UNFPA support, was one of the mechanisms through which the Fund had worked to strengthen and improve quality of care. She added that, with UNFPA support, the Ministry of Health was

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developing an integrated and permanent monitoring and evaluation system to measure and follow-up on qualitative aspects of service provision.

220. Next, the Director, Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programme, Ministry of Health, Peru, briefed the Executive Board on the national programme on reproductive health and family planning. He thanked the Board for its interest in the national programme. He noted that the Government of Peru accorded high priority to the provision of reproductive health and family planning services and recognized it to be important for the development of individuals and the country. For that reason, since 1990, the Government had substantially increased its contribution to the Ministry of Health's programme, which now met the needs of 70 per cent of the country's people. In 1990, the Government had provided 5 per cent of the programme budget; in 1999, that sum had risen to 70 per cent. The Government's commitment to increasing resources for the programme had enabled the expansion of services to rural areas. Also, since 1995, the national programme had provided all family planning services free of cost to clients. Legal barriers to sterilization had been removed. Given that there had been a significant increase in demand for reproductive health and family planning services it had been difficult to maintain the quality of services at that time. At the end of 1997, some newspapers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) complained about the implementation of the programme and alleged that there had been mass forced sterilizations and insufficient provision of pre-operation information to clients. Being informed of some 200 alleged cases, the Ministry of Health carried out investigations that concluded that more than half of the cases were unsubstantiated and the rest resulted from flaws in the quality of the programme. The Government then asked UNFPA and the World Health Organization (WHO) to send a technical mission to Peru to review and assess the implementation of the programme. The conclusion of the team was that there were cases where clients had not been provided sufficient information on surgical procedures prior to giving their consent. In some cases the consent forms had not been signed and the post-operation follow-up protocol had not been observed. Also, certain surgeons were not adequately qualified.

221. The Director also noted that since March 1998, the Ministry of Health had been carrying out a strategy to improve the quality of the national programme. The actions taken included the following: programme officials had been provided written policy instructions prohibiting quotas to achieve programme goals. It had been clarified that programme goals were simply a reference point to allow assessment of financial and logistical resources; an integrated monitoring system had been developed to look at quality management and not just at the provision of services; norms for consent had been established, including through the provision of checklists to clients by the surgeon, prior to any surgical intervention; training in counselling, emphasizing respect for human rights, was provided to service providers, including doctors; surgical aspects of interventions and post-operative treatment were being improved; a 72-hour waiting period between counselling and surgery had been established; the certification of surgeons was being carried out with the participation of the Medical College of Peru; and the Ministry of Health was involved in guaranteeing the infrastructure, the equipment and the safety of surgical procedures. He added that the new national norms of the programme had been prepared following discussions with NGOs and other members of civil society. The Ministry of

Health was also participating in a national tripartite commission, composed of representatives of Government, NGOs and other organizations, that had been established in 1997 to monitor implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Periodically, the Ministry of Health reported to the commission on the progress of the national programme on reproductive health and family planning. Through that exchange of information a consensus statement had been published in February 1999 which stated that the media stories on alleged forced sterilizations in Peru had been erroneous and did not reflect the reality of the situation. He noted the main method of contraception in Peru was injectables and not surgical interventions. With improvements in the quality of services there had been a recent increase in the demand for vasectomies and tubal ligations. He concluded by inviting interested parties to visit Peru to verify for themselves the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Health to improve the quality of the national programme.

222. The Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations informed the Executive Board that Peru had previously reported on its national programme on reproductive health and family planning in various forums at the United Nations. Nevertheless, the Government of Peru was pleased to provide the additional information requested by the Board. He emphasized that in keeping with the country's Constitution and with the international documents on human rights, the Government of Peru did not coerce individuals who availed themselves of the services of the reproductive health and family planning programme. He noted that the programme offered people of limited resources the opportunity to become informed and to freely have access to reproductive health and family planning services which otherwise would be outside their reach. He added that the eradication of poverty was one of the basic development goals of the country and the national strategy focused on meeting the health, education, nutrition and employment needs of the people. He stated that family planning constituted a personal option that each citizen could exercise freely in relation to his/her own circumstances. In Peru, civil society actors and NGOs were consulted on the provision of family planning services. He invited all interested NGOs to visit Peru to verify for themselves the advances made by the national programme on reproductive health and family planning.

223. Three delegations took the floor following the briefing and expressed appreciation for the briefing. The delegations thanked the Director, Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programme, Ministry of Health, for making a special trip from Lima, Peru, to brief the Executive Board and noted that the information provided would be very useful for authorities in their respective countries in dealing with queries and concerns that were raised. One delegation was pleased to note that Peru, in consultation with UNFPA and WHO, had taken steps to promptly remedy the problems encountered in the national programme. Another delegation requested that copies of the statement of the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations be made available to the members of the Executive Board, and the Ambassador responded that his statement would later be made available to all members of the Executive Board.

224. The Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, was pleased to note that the Executive Board had found the information provided satisfactory. She reiterated that UNFPA was available to expand on any of the issues discussed. She also called attention to Ambassador Tudela's invitation to interested

parties to visit Peru to take a closer look at the reproductive health and family planning programme. She reaffirmed that UNFPA was satisfied with the measures and strategy adopted by Peru's Ministry of Health to improve the quality of the national programme. She assured the Board that the Fund would continue to focus attention on strengthening the strategy for improving the quality of the programme.

Closing remarks

225. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board for the advice and guidance it had provided to the Fund. She stated that the session had been an excellent one for UNFPA and she appreciated the quality and depth of the discussions. She observed that UNFPA had benefitted greatly from the substantive dialogue which had helped to clarify several key issues of concern to the Fund. Noting that the Board had adopted three important decisions pertaining to the work of the Fund, she underscored that it was important for the Executive Board to become more closely engaged in funding issues. She added that the consultative process had been very beneficial for UNFPA. She conveyed special thanks to the representatives of Ghana, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom for acting as facilitators of the decisions adopted by the Board.

226. The Executive Director thanked the staff of Conference Services and UNDP for facilitating the smooth running of the meeting. She paid special tribute to the interpreters for their professionalism. She thanked the President of the Executive Board and members of the Bureau for their support. In particular, she thanked the President for the refreshing, frank and effective way in which he had conducted the session. Finally, she conveyed her thanks to all UNFPA staff for their hard work and dedication. She noted that UNFPA was much smaller than a number of its sister organizations in the United Nations system and that invariably meant that many staff members worked long hours. In addition, the year had been an extraordinarily busy one for UNFPA due to the ICPD+5 review and appraisal process. She concluded by registering her gratitude to the Fund's staff members for their commitment and dedication.

227. The Associate Administrator, also on behalf of the Administrator, thanked all delegations that had participated in the first funding meeting for UNDP held on 15 April. He gave special thanks to those delegations that had sent high-level representatives to give support to UNDP. He hoped that the first pledging conference, a historic event for UNDP, would be the basis for close cooperation and serve as a tool, enabling partners to reconfirm their commitments. He thanked all donors who had expressed support and hoped that it would not be long before UNDP reached its target of $1.1 billion in core contributions per annum. He also thanked the President and other members of the Bureau, the Executive Director and all others who had participated in the session.

228. Ms. Jana Simonova (Czech Republic), Vice President of the Executive Board, who was chairing the meeting, gave an overview of the highlights of the Board's action, noting that it had been an intense and productive week. She thanked all members of the Board for the guidance and advice they had provided to UNDP and UNFPA. She also thanked all Bureau members, the secretariats of UNDP and UNFPA,

as well as the conference officers, the interpreters and other staff of conference services who had facilitated the Board's work.

229. The Executive Board concluded its work by adopting the following decision:

99/7. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1999

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the second regular session 1999 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1999 (DP/1999/L.2 and Corr.1);

Approved the report on the first regular session 1999 (DP/1999/8);

Approved the report on the second regular session 1999 on item 2: Reports to the Economic and Social Council;

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 1999 and 2000 subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

Annual session 1999:	14-23 June 1999 (New York)
Third regular session 1999:	13-17 September 1999
First regular session 2000:	24-28 January 2000
Second regular session 2000:	3-7 April 2000
Annual session 2000:	12-23 June 2000 (Geneva)
Third regular session 2000:	11-15 September 2000

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the annual session 1999 of the Board, as listed in the work plan (see annex I);

UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT

ITEM 2: REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Took note of the reports of the Administrator (DP/1999/10) and the Executive Director (DP/FPA/1999/5) to the Economic and Social Council and agreed to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council with comments made thereon;

ITEM 3: COMMON PREMISES AND SERVICES

Took note of the progress report on the United Nations House programme (DP/1999/CRP.5);

ITEM 4: STATEMENTS ON FUNDING COMMITMENTS TO UNDP AND UNFPA

Held its first funding meeting following decision 99/1 and took note of the report on core funding commitments to UNDP 1999 and onwards (DP/1999/CRP.6) with comments made thereon, including the revised tables 1 and 2 (see annex II);

UNFPA SEGMENT

ITEM 5: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the request for assistance to the Government of Benin (DP/FPA/BEN/5 and Corr.1);

ITEM 6: TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Took note of the progress report on improvements implemented in the operation of the UNFPA Technical Support Services system (DP/FPA/1999/4);

ITEM 7: SECTOR-WIDE APPROACHES

Adopted decision 99/4 of 16 April 1999 on UNFPA and sector-wide approaches;

ITEM 8: ICPD+5

Took note of the oral presentation on the ICPD+5 review and assessment process, including the outcome of the Hague International Forum;

ITEM 9: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Adopted decision 99/5 of 16 April 1999 on UNFPA multi-year planning, management and funding framework;

ITEM 10: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Adopted decision 99/6 of 16 April 1999 on UNFPA support for reproductive health in emergency situations;

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UNDP SEGMENT

ITEM 11: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Took note of the report on UNDP financial risk management; review of operational reserve (DP/1999/5/Rev.1) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on UNDP financial risk management; review of operations reserve (DP/1999/26) and decided to resume consideration of these documents at its annual session 1999.

ITEM 12: COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the first country cooperation framework for Aruba (DP/CCF/ARU/1 and Corr.1);

Took note of the report on assistance to Somalia (DP/1999/11) with the comments made thereon and authorized the Administrator to continue to approve projects in Somalia on a case-by-case basis;

Took note of the report on assistance to Montserrat (DP/1999/12 and Corr.1) and authorized the Administrator to approve projects in Montserrat on a case-by-case basis;

Took note of the report on preliminary earmarkings for the target for resource assignment from the core for the period 2001-2003 (DP/1999/27);

ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS

Approved the selection of the representatives of the Western Europe and Other States group and of the Latin America and Caribbean group to serve on the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health for a one-year term.

Took note of the briefing by UNFPA on its programme of assistance to the Government of Peru.

16 April 1999

Annex I

Annual session 1999 (14-23 June 1999)

DAY/DATE	TIME	ITEM	SUBJECT
MONDAY 14 JUNE	A.M.	1	Organizational matters: Adoption of the agenda and agreement on the work plan and approval of the report on the second regular session 1999
		2	UNDP: Annual report of the Administrator
	P.M.	2	UNDP: Annual report of the Administrator (continued)
TUESDAY 15 JUNE	A.M.	3	UNDP: Follow-up to United Nations reform
	P.M.	4	UNDP: Evaluation
WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE	A.M.	5	UNDP: Country cooperation frameworks and related matters
		14	UNDP: Financial, budgetary and administrative matters: financial risk management
	P.M.	6	UNDP: Information and communication strategy
THURSDAY 17 JUNE	A.M.	7	UNDP: Resource mobilization
		8	UNDP: Technical cooperation among developing countries
	P.M.	9	United Nations Office for Project Services
FRIDAY 18 JUNE	A.M.		UNDP/UNFPA JOINT SEGMENT
		10	Internal audit and oversight
		15	Field visit to Brazil
	P.M.	*SPECIAL EVENT* *Private sector in Africa: Role of UNDP*	

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DAY/DATE	TIME	ITEM	SUBJECT
MONDAY **21 JUNE**	**A.M.**		**UNFPA SEGMENT**
		11	UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director for 1998
	P.M.	11	UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director for 1998 (continued)
TUESDAY **22 JUNE**	**A.M.**	11	UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director for 1998 (continued)
	P.M.	12	UNFPA: Work plan and request for programme expenditure authority
WEDNESDAY **23 JUNE**	**A.M.**	13	UNFPA: Information and communication strategy
	P.M.	15	Other matters - Report on the World Trade Organization initiative for least developed countries - Joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS - Pending decisions

Informal briefings proposed:

- Briefing by the World Bank on the Comprehensive Development Framework and the Global Trust Fund
- UNDP assistance to the Indonesian election process
- Presentation by the Office of Development Studies on Global Public Goods - International Cooperation in the 21st Century
- Follow-up activities to Hurricane Mitch

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ANNEX II.

Table 1. Commitments/estimates of contributions to UNDP core resources: 1999-2001 and income to UNDP core resources and government local office costs: 1997-1998 a/ (as of 30 April 1999)

1.a. OECD/DAC Members	1997 Income received			1998 Income received			1999 PLEDGES & ESTIMATES b/					2000 Pledges & Estimates b/		2001 Pledges & Estimates b/	
	Local currency (in millions)	US $	Percentage shar of total core contribution	Local currency (in millions)	US $	Percentage shar of total core contribution	Local currency (in millions)	US $	Percentage shar of total core contribution	% increase in local currency	% increase in US $	Local currency (in millions)	US $	Local currency (in millions)	US $
Australia	-	-	0.0%	13.2 c	8,257,348 c	1.1%	6.7 *	4,213,836	0.6%	0.0%	5.1%	6.7 *	4,213,836	6.7 *	4,213,836
Austria	136.90	11,452,550	1.5%	125.9	10,052,008	1.3%	143.8 d	11,214,385 d	1.5%	0.0%	-2.4%	125.8	9,809,273	125.8	9,809,273
Belgium	660.00	18,591,549	2.4%	454.2	12,245,283	1.6%	484.2	12,348,795	1.7%	2.2%	0.8%				
Canada	41.25	29,763,762	3.9%	41.3	29,290,780	3.9%	41.3	27,350,993	3.7%	0.0%	-6.6%	41.3	27,350,993	41.3	27,350,993
Denmark	508.56	76,330,308	10.0%	550.0	84,550,067	11.3%	575.0 *	85,324,232	11.6%	4.5%	0.9%				
Finland	61.00	11,888,104	1.6%	62.0	11,453,273	1.5%	65.0	11,729,845	1.6%	4.8%	2.4%				
France	80.00	13,606,072	1.8%	31.6	5,146,560	0.7%	100.0 e	18,357,189 e	2.2%	55.0%	51.6%				
Germany	120.00	69,379,932	9.1%	100.0	56,825,900	7.6%	75.0	41,144,813	5.6%	-25.0%	-27.6%				
Ireland	1.85	2,958,760	0.4%	2.2	3,084,412	0.4%	2.42	3,296,958	0.4%	10.0%	6.9%	2.42	3,296,958	2.42	3,296,958
Italy	32,000.0	19,553,699	2.6%	19,000.0	10,734,463	1.4%	22,000.0	12,191,067	1.7%	15.8%	13.6%	22,000.0 *	12,191,067	22,000.0 *	12,191,067
Japan	-	99,271,200	13.0%	-	79,896,000	10.6%	-	80,000,000	10.8%	-	0.1%				
Luxembourg	15.0	431,034	0.1%	20.0	526,535	0.1%	24	638,352	0.1%	20.0%	21.2%	30	797,940	30	797,940
Netherlands	170.0	87,480,816	11.5%	165.0	82,335,454	11.0%	150.0	73,033,216	9.9%	-9.1%	-11.3%				
New Zealand	4.4	3,034,483	0.4%	4.4	2,573,099	0.3%	4.4 *	2,340,426	0.3%	0.0%	-9.0%				
Norway	524.0	75,820,492	10.0%	580.0	74,590,245	9.9%	560.0	69,812,292	9.5%	-1.8%	-6.3%				
Portugal	-	1,200,000	0.2%	-	1,400,000	0.2%	-	1,600,000	0.2%	-	14.3%				
Spain	841.0	5,800,000	0.8%	741.0	5,292,857	0.7%	815 *	5,256,623	0.7%	10.0%	-0.7%				
Sweden	460.0	61,162,080	8.0%	470.0	59,966,102	8.0%	490.0	59,393,939	8.0%	4.3%	-1.0%	490.0	59,393,939	490.0	59,393,939
Switzerland	56.0	38,620,690	5.1%	56.0	41,791,045	5.6%	56.0 *	37,583,893	5.1%	0.0%	-10.1%				
United Kingdom	24.0	38,850,874	5.1%	30.0	50,000,000	6.7%	35.0	56,634,304	7.7%	16.7%	13.3%	35.0	56,634,304	35.0	56,634,304
United States	-	72,350,000	9.5%	-	95,548,465	12.7%	-	100,000,000	13.5%	-	4.7%		80,000,000		
Subtotal DAC		737,884,425	96.9%		725,861,946	96.6%		711,882,159	96.4%		-1.9%				
Others		22,409,613	3.1%		25,363,456	3.4%		26,889,052	3.6%		4.5%				
TOTAL UNDP		760,865,038	100.0%		750,823,401	100.0%		738,871,211	100.0%		-1.7%				

1.b. Non-DAC															
Andorra		8,000	0.0%		0	0.0%			0.0%						
Cyprus			0.0%		0	0.0%			0.0%						
Greece		788,346	0.1%	70,165,343	276,296	0.0%	70,000,000	239,464	0.0%	-0.2%	-13.3%				
Holy See		2,500	0.0%		0	0.0%			0.0%						
Iceland	31,800,000	787,857	0.1%	22,100,000	364,910	0.0%	18,300,000	272,321	0.0%	-17.2%	-25.4%				
Liechtenstein	10,000	6,944	0.0%	10,000	6,849	0.0%	10,000	6,711	0.0%	0.0%	-2.0%				
Malta		148,934	0.0%		25,000	0.0%			0.0%						
Monaco	75,000	13,158	0.0%		0	0.0%	70,000	11,450	0.0%						
Subtotal non-DAC		1,735,739	0.2%		673,056	0.1%		529,946	0.1%						

* Based on informal indications provided by the donor or UNDP's best estimates, final commitments were not available before finalization of this table.

Table 1 (continued)

1.c. Programme countries by region	1997 Income received			1998 Income received			1999 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999		2000 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999		2001 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999	
	Total income 1/ US$	Net core contribution 1/ US$	GLOC payments US$	Total income 1/ US$	Net core contribution 1/ US$	GLOC payments US$	Core pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$	Core pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$	Core Pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$
Africa												
Benin	256,173	4,500	251,673	304,371	0	304,371	5,000					
Botswana	41,273	0	41,273	436,716	0	436,716						
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	38,719	0	38,719	50,000					
Burundi	29,874	0	29,874	12,429	0	12,429	10,000					
Cameroon	37,234	0	37,234	0	0	0						
Central African Republic	23,810	0	23,810	0	0	0						
Chad							40,000	100,000	40,000	100,000		
Ethiopia	148,938	0	148,938	152,257	0	152,257	144,928	7,584	144,928	7,584	144,928	7,584
Gambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000					
Ghana	40,000	32,000	8,000	0	0	0	40,000		50,000		60,000	
Lesotho	105,362	0	105,362	412	0	412	21,417	57,878				
Madagascar	52,266	0	52,266	53,024	0	53,024						
Malawi	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,121					
Mali	11,726	0	11,726	0	0	0						
Mauritius	91,370	0	91,370	97,216	0	97,216						
Namibia	500	0	500	444,929	0	444,929						
Nigeria	0	0	0	286,677	0	286,677						
Rwanda	0	0	0	16,990	0	16,990						
Sao Tomé and Principe	0	0	0	45,931	0	45,931						
Senegal							20,000	280,000				
Seychelles	23,009	0	23,009	0	0	0						
South Africa	200,228	0	200,228	174,081	0	174,081	144,685					
Swaziland	144,227	0	144,227	133,533	0	133,533						
Tanzania, United Republic of	8,453	0	8,453	0	0	0	50,718	1,000,000				
Zambia	0	0	0	1,976	0	1,976						
Zimbabwe	112,777	0	112,777	0	0							
Subtotal	**1,327,886**	**36,500**	**1,291,386**	**2,199,291**	**0**	**2,199,291**	**538,879**	**1,445,472**	**234,928**	**107,584**	**204,928**	**7,584**
Arab States												
Algeria	286,319	0	286,319	100,000	0	100,000	100,000					
Bahrain	480,000	0	480,000	566,639	56,000	510,639						
Djibouti	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000					
Egypt	1,121,994	356,080	765,914	422,059	196,059	226,000						
Iraq	858,020	0	858,020	0	0	0						
Jordan	509,887	157,887	352,000	240,113	0	240,113	784,735	335,420				
Kuwait	570,000	568,000	2,000	0	0	0	570,000					
Lebanon	389,000	0	389,000	993,177	0	993,177						
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	865,910	0	865,910	0	0	0						
Morocco	488,705	18,805	469,900	657,915	191,886	466,029						
Saudi Arabia	2,359,967	1,919,067	440,900	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	2,000,000					
Syrian	99,095	0	99,095	96,942	0	96,942						
Tunisia	318,584	0	318,584	467,420	161,720	305,700	223,478	130,435				
United Arab Emirates	665,798	0	665,798	1,358,772	570,800	787,972						
Yemen	40,152	0	40,152	201,082	0	201,082	40,000					
Subtotal	**8,882,431**	**3,019,839**	**5,862,592**	**7,104,099**	**3,176,465**	**3,927,634**	**3,719,213**	**465,855**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Asia/Pacific												
Bangladesh	25,229	0	25,229	322,748	65,648	257,100	300,000	22,748	400,000		400,000	
Bhutan	53,364	0	53,364	67,340	0	67,340	11,232		11,232		11,232	
China	3,164,719	2,925,419	239,300	3,252,371	2,950,000	302,371	3,000,000	302,297				
Cook Islands	26,016	0	26,016	0	0	0						
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		0		140,187	8,487	131,700						
Fiji	48,686	0	48,686	43,825	0	43,825	34,021	9,639				
Hong Kong	48,331	* 37,000	11,331	0	0	0						

Table 1 (continued)

1.c. Programme countries by region	1997 Income received			1998 Income received			1999 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999		2000 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999		2001 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999	
	Total income i/ US$	Net core contribution i/ US$	GLOC payments US$	Total income i/ US$	Net core contribution i/ US$	GLOC payments US$	Core pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$	Core pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$	Core Pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$
India	4,384,368	4,299,068	85,300	9,030,076	8,921,784 e/	108,292	4,500,000		4,500,000		4,500,000	
Indonesia	1,155,000	837,500	317,500	0	0	0						
Iran, Islamic Republic of	121,333	0	121,333	121,511	0	121,511		98,079				
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0	0	0	116	0	116	21,188					
Malaysia	416,546	16,246	400,300	385,000	118,500	266,500	385,000					
Maldives	102,500	0	102,500	120,011	10,000	110,011	7,500					
Micronesia	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000						
Mongolia	79,559	0	79,559	92,727	0	92,727	17,000					
Myanmar	115,530	5,745	109,785	0	0	0	3,344					
Nepal	138,228	11,630	126,598	121,731	0	121,731	80,000		80,300		80,000	
Niue	20,302	1,400	18,902	20,316	0	20,316						
Pakistan	888,095	611,529	276,566	775,719	514,019	261,700	498,743	231,087	548,417			
Philippines	1,354,272	626,163	728,109	648,777	302,949	345,828	7,000	459,845				
Republic of Korea	3,393,508	2,527,308	866,200	2,534,445	1,833,345	701,100	2,250,000					
Samoa	59,100	0	59,100	46,068	6,000	40,068	6,000					
Singapore	255,000	255,000	0	300,000	300,000		300,000					
Sri Lanka	1,034,640	980,540	54,100	2,069,280	2,008,580 g/	60,700						
Thailand	1,678,100	732,700	945,400	1,879,323	984,423	894,900	865,112	413,844				
Tokelau Islands	18,953	0	18,953	48,992	0	48,992						
Tonga	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000						
Vanuatu	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000						
Viet Nam	408,789	25,850	382,939	28,884	0	28,884	29,035					
Subtotal	19,918,189	13,888,888	5,129,888	22,879,446	18,023,733	4,848,712	12,313,184	1,836,317	5,537,649	0	4,891,232	0
Latin America												
Anguilla	28,807	0	28,807	24,800	0	24,800						
Argentina	290,561	0	290,561	801,604	0	801,604	500,000	800,000				
Aruba	10,988	0	10,988	0	0	0						
Barbados	145,175	0	145,175	182,484	0	182,484						
Belize	37,879	0	37,879	50,505	0	50,505						
Bolivia	70,000	0	70,000	70,000	0	70,000	70,000					
Brazil	800,000	0	800,000	0	0	0						
British Virgin Islands	17,428	8,316	9,112	17,428	8,316	9,112						
Cayman Islands	0	0	0	18,800	0	18,800						
Chile	1,100,000	283,800	816,200	612,000	0	612,000	975,000	250,000				
Colombia	1,016,057	440,357	575,700	650,994	79,894	571,100	450,000	200,000				
Costa Rica	261,252	0	261,252	559,394	279,994	279,400						
Cuba	1,557,754	1,352,754	205,000	1,552,754	1,352,754	200,000	1,352,754	200,000	1,352,754	200,000	1,352,754	200,000
Dominican Republic	37,741	37,741		0	0							
Ecuador	0	0		111,281	0	111,281						
El Salvador	552,840	0	552,840	383,060	0	383,060						
Guatemala	98,325	0	98,325	251,362	0	251,362		251,362				
Guyana	60,002	16,142	43,860	58,343	14,180	44,163						
Haiti	83,795	0	83,795	477,980	0	477,980						
Honduras	45,279	0	45,279	71,106	0	71,106						
Jamaica	108,062	0	108,062	0	0							
Mexico	1,002,426	395,826	606,600	996,730	318,330	678,400						
Netherlands Antilles	18,836	0	18,836	0	0							
Nicaragua	0	0		198,000	40,000	158,000						
Panama	722,960	148,740	574,220	433,780	140,880	292,900						
Paraguay	227,679	0	227,679	40,213	0	40,213						
Peru	0	0		450,000	0	450,000	500,000					
Saint Kitts and Nevis	58,300	0	58,300	58,300	0	58,300						
Saint Lucia	46,000	2,200	43,800	51,800	0	51,800						

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Table 1 (continued)

1.c. Programme countries by region	1997 Income received Total income i/ US$	Net core contribution i/ US$	GLOC payments US$	1998 Income received Total income i/ US$	Net core contribution i/ US$	GLOC payments US$	1999 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999 Core pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$	2000 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999 Core pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$	2001 Pledges received b/ as per April 30, 1999 Core Pledges US$	GLOC pledges US$
Saint Vincent	32,973	0	32,973	0	0							
Suriname	51,445	0	51,445	0	0							
Trinidad and Tobago	159,219	21,319	137,900	11,218	0	11,218						
Turks and Caicos	29,900	0	29,900	50,000	23,600	26,400						
Uruguay	0	0		263,000	0	263,000						
Venezuela	0	0		306,780	0	306,780						
Subtotal	**8,457,473**	**2,707,196**	**5,750,278**	**8,733,486**	**2,257,908**	**6,475,578**	**3,847,754**	**1,701,362**	**1,352,754**	**200,000**	**1,352,754**	**200,000**
Europe												
Belarus	123,543	0	123,543	100,001	0	100,001						
Bulgaria	0	0		152,457	5,722	146,735	1,014	50,000				
Czech Republic	239,521	239,521		243,902	243,902		170,020	21,252	255,030 h/		283,366 h/	
Estonia	68,027	0	68,027	73,529	0	73,529						
Latvia	143,426	0	143,426	146,736	0	146,736						
Lithuania	245,000	0	245,000	0	0							
Poland	420,603	230,279	190,324	510,761	291,667	219,094	384,737	200,000				
Republic of Moldova	26,800	0	26,800	0	0							
Romania	44,274	0	44,274	117,203	8,603	108,600	18,849	70,784				
Russian Federation	450,000	180,800	269,200	75,000	0	75,000	900,000 j/					
Slovenia	0	0		2,031	0	2,031	1,417					
Turkey	2,899,707	1,378,644	1,521,063	1,530,000	688,400	841,600	770,000					
Turkmenistan							3,000					
Ukraine	72,406	0	72,406	51,501	0	51,501						
Yugoslavia	0	0		9,743	0	9,743						
Subtotal	**4,733,187**	**2,029,344**	**2,723,913**	**3,012,864**	**1,238,494**	**1,774,570**	**2,267,837**	**342,017**	**255,030**	**0**	**283,366**	**0**
Estimate							**4,338,818 k/**					
Total all regions	**42,393,228**	**21,684,874**	**20,720,361**	**43,120,185**	**24,698,409**	**18,423,798**	**35,899,082**	**5,469,823**	**7,289,281**	**397,984**	**9,832,280**	**397,984**

a/ Based on actual income received by UNDP in the respective calendar year rather than pledged contributions for that year.

b/ Based on United Nations exchange rates as of 1 April 1999.

c/ Australia did not make any payment as of 31 December 1997 for that year's pledge. Instead, it made two payments of A$6.5 million (equivalent to US$ 4.25 million) and A$6.7 million (equivalent to US$4.01 million) in 1998, which represents payment for both the 1997 and 1998 pledges respectively. With its 1999 pledge at A$6.7 million (equivalent to US$4.21 million), the level of contribution in local currency terms, is maintained at the 1998 level. However, based on the United Nations exchange rate as of 1 April 1999 the percentage increase in US dollar terms is approximately 5.08 per cent over the previous year.

d/ As confirmed, Austria's pledge for 1999 is maintained at the 1998 level, i.e., ATS126.8 million; consequently, the table shows no percentage change in local currency terms for 1999. However, the amount shown for 1998 is actual income received and reflects part of the 1998 pledge as well as partial payment for previous years. As the final portion of Austria's 1998 pledge is expected to be received in 1999, the estimate shown for Austria for 1999 includes the remaining portion of the 1998 pledge plus the 1999 pledge.

e/ France's pledge for 1998 was in the amount of Ffrs. 51.6 million, out of which a first payment of Ffrs. 31.6 million (equivalent to US$5.15 million) was received as of 31 December 1998. The remaining Ffrs 20 million (equivalent to US$3.48 million) was received on 5 February 1999 and will consequently be reflected as part of the income received in 1999 calendar year. Based on the actual 1998 pledge (Ffrs. 51.6 million, equivalent to US$ 8.63 million) and the 1999 pledge of Ffrs. 80 million (equivalent to US$13.09 million), the 1999 contribution represents an increase of 55.04 per cent in local currency terms and 51.63 per cent in US dollar terms. In terms of the increase of expected 1999 payment over actual income received in 1998, it will be 217 per cent in local currency terms and 218 per cent in US dollar terms.

f/ India did not make any payment towards its 1998 pledge of US$4.39 million during the 1998 calendar year. Instead, it made two payments in 1998 of US$4.39 million and of US$ 4.5 million, which represent payments for the 1998 and 1999 pledges respectively. With the 1999 pledge at the level of US$ 4.5 million, India has maintained its pledge from 1998.

g/ Sri Lanka did not make any payment towards its 1998 pledge of US$1.03 million during the 1998 calendar year. Instead, it made two payments in 1998 of US$1.03 million each, which represents payments for the 1998 and 1999 pledges respectively.

h/ Includes GLOC, for which no breakdown is provided.

i/ Total income received from programme countries, which includes voluntary contributions as well as GLOC payments. Parts or all of initial voluntary contributions may be reflected as GLOC payments through the accounting linkage. The net core contribution reflects the voluntary contribution after application of the accounting linkage.

j/ Payment for the Russian Federation for 1999 was received on 4 January 1999. The total pledge reflected, $900,000, is a combination of the 1998 payment and the 1999 pledge.

k/ It is estimated that at least approximately US$ 4 million in core contributions will still be forthcoming from programme countries. This figure is based on UNDP estimates and on historical trends.

Source: DOF report, 431A for 1997-1998 and two-year pledging conference print-out of 1 April 1999
DRM/BREA
April 30, 1999

Table 2: Schedule of payments confirmed for 1999 commitments to UNDP core resources

Contributors	Schedule of payments
DAC donors	
Australia	Early July 1999.
Austria	Monthly instalments.
Belgium	May 1999.
Canada	Full payment of Cdn$41.3 million received by UNDP on 13 April 1999.
Finland	End April 1999.
France	Before 30 April 1999.
Germany	Four instalments. First payment of DM.18.75 million (equivalent to US$10.93 million) received by UNDP on 15 February 1999. Other payments are scheduled for 15 May, 15 August and 15 October 1999.
Ireland	IR£200,000 (equivalent to US$298,380) received in January 1999, the balance of IR£2.22 million (equivalent to US$3.02 million) was received on April 8, 1999.
Italy	July 1999.
Japan	Second quarter of 1999.
Luxembourg	Full payment of LFrs.24 million (equivalent to US$0.6 million) received on April 15, 1999.
Netherlands	12 instalments, already made three payments of Dfls. 12.5 million (equivalent to US$ 6.45 million) received on February 2, 1999; Dfls. 12.5 million (equivalent to US$ 6.45 million) received on February 5, 1999; and Dfls. 12.5 million (equivalent to US$ 6.01 million) received on April 1, 1999.
Norway	Four equal instalments. First payment of Nkrs.137.50 million (equivalent US$18.2 million) received in January 1999. Second payment of Nkrs.135.5 million is expected by end April 1999.
Sweden	Two equal instalments, first payment of Skr.245 million received in March 1999. Final payment will be made in September 1999.
United Kingdom	Beginning April 1999.
United States	$77 million received on April 5, 1999.
Programme countries	
Bulgaria	End April 1999.
Burundi	Second quarter of 1999.
Czech Republic	End April 1999.
Ghana	First half of 1999 (will include both 1998 and 1999 payments).
India	Second quarter of 1999.
Nepal	1999 pledge will be paid in April 1999. For the 2000 and 2001 pledges, payment will be made in January each year.
Pakistan	First week of May 1999.
Poland	First half of 1999.
Republic of Korea	June 1999.
Romania	Second half of 1999.
Turkey	Fall of 1999.

Source: Based on official letters received by UNDP (DRM/BREA) as of 9 April 1999. Supplementary information provided by UNDP Comptroller's Division, BFAS/UNDP April 30, 1999.

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Table 3. Government in-kind contributions
(Thousands of US dollars)

Region/Country Office	1997	1998
AFRICA		
Benin	34.3	32.8
Burundi	60.6	65.2
Central African Republic	50.8	48.6
Comoros	0.0	18.6
Congo	0.0	90.0
Côte d'Ivoire	85.9	82.2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	87.8	0.0
Equatorial Guinea	15.7	15.0
Gambia	18.4	17.8
Ghana	204.6	175.8
Lesotho	0.0	78.3
Malawi	40.5	25.2
Niger	75.7	72.4
Nigeria	83.3	83.3
Seychelles	8.2	8.0
Sierre Leone	54.2	54.2
South Africa	70.0 *	70.0 *
Togo	127.9	122.3
United Republic of Tanzania	175.4	175.4
Total Africa region	**1,193.3**	**1,235.1**
ARAB STATES		
Algeria	42.1	42.1
Bahrain	67.0	67.0
Kuwait	59.0	58.6
Lebanon	0.0	424.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	139.7	135.5
Qatar	67.3	67.3
Saudi Arabia	280.1	280.1
Sudan	44.8	44.8
Tunisia	71.5	76.6
United Arab Emirates	106.5	106.7
Total Arab States region	**878.0**	**1,302.7**
ASIA and the PACIFIC		
Bhutan	8.9	8.0
India	0.0	320.0
Indonesia	354.9	155.8
Iran, Islamic Republic of	447.4	0.0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.0	32.1
Malaysia	32.1	101.3
Maldives	121.5	0.0
Philippines	185.8	190.7
Republic of Korea	64.4	41.5
Sri Lanka	113.1	105.0
Viet Nam	131.4	117.1
Total Asia and the Pacific region	**1,459.5**	**1,071.5**

Table 3 (continued)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Region/Country Office	1997	1998
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
Barbados	96.7	96.7
Chile	339.2	316.6
Cuba	84.5	93.0
Dominican Republic	183.3	227.0
Guyana	69.6	67.2
Jamaica	53.8	51.8
Panama	40.0	40.0
Paraguay	50.0	39.8
Uruguay	10.5	40.0
Total Latin America and the Caribbean region	**927.6**	**972.1**
EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES		
Albania	71.6	63.7
Armenia	41.0	45.1
Azerbaijan	72.6	72.6
Belarus	191.8	185.1
Bulgaria	64.8	68.4
Cyprus	55.2	52.4
Estonia	9.9	9.9
Georgia	43.3	178.0
Kazakhstan	0.0	529.1
Kyrgyzstan	59.4	65.3
Latvia	96.0	105.6
Lithuania	41.0	45.1
Poland	232.2	232.2
Republic of Moldova	118.5	118.5
Romania	70.3	70.3
Tajikistan	0.0	15.0
Turkmenistan	135.6	135.6
Ukraine	274.2	301.6
Uzbekistan	0.0	219.5
Total EUROPE and the CIS region	**1,577.4**	**2,513.0**
GRAND TOTAL	**6,035.8**	**7,094.4**

* Amounts reflect initial estimates for South Africa's "in-kind" contributions which had not been registered but will be considered for 1999 GLOC calculations.

Source: Based on information provided by country offices to Office of Budget, BPRM/UNDP

April 30, 1999

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Annex

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP AND UNFPA
SECOND REGULAR SESSION 1999
FIRST FUNDING MEETING

Statement by President

1. The President of the Executive Board opened the meeting, noting that a new chapter in the history of UNDP was beginning as the Executive Board convened its first funding meeting. During the present session, the Board would consider funding statements on UNDP only since UNFPA was in an earlier stage in its development of a funding strategy.

2. Executive Board decision 98/23 on a UNDP funding strategy had designated the second regular session, beginning in 1999, as a time when all members of the Programme would announce their voluntary core contributions to UNDP. The announcements were to include a firm funding commitment for the current year, and for those in a position to do so, a firm contribution or indication of the contribution for the following year, and a firm or tentative contribution for the third year. Members would also indicate payment schedules for the current year.

3. The Executive Board had reaffirmed the preparations for the funding meeting in its decision 99/1 on the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) and had requested all States members of UNDP to communicate their voluntary core contributions, in writing, to the secretariat by the beginning of April at the latest to facilitate efficient preparation of the funding meeting. The communications from members of UNDP were reflected in document DP/1999/CRP.6, which had been distributed to the Board.

4. The Executive Board was undertaking the funding meeting without having the MYFF fully in place. In its decision 98/23, the Board had requested UNDP to develop such a framework, and it was expected that a draft of the framework would be reviewed by the Board at its third regular session 1999. That meant that the Board was operating at the present session on something of an experimental basis, a factor that should be taken into account since the proceedings of the current session would be analysed for lessons learned.

5. For the day's proceedings, the President hoped that there would be a real dialogue of substance regarding the funding issue, including the rationale for increases or decreases in contributions. It was desirable to evolve beyond the format of the pledging conferences held in the context of the General Assembly. Enhanced dialogue on funding would better enable the Executive Board to get a clearer picture of exactly how to go about building and ensuring a stronger UNDP, one that would provide exemplary service to programme countries. Statements would thus be limited to three minutes and longer written statements could be distributed upon request.

Statement by the Administrator

6. The Administrator welcomed the Executive Board to the first funding meeting for UNDP, noting that it was part of the continuing manifestation of a new partnership begun the previous year. It was the next step on the path to

re-establishing adequate, predictable, and sustainable core funding levels for the organization. The dialogue, open to all members of the Programme, was taking place in the context of the Board's decisions 98/23 and 99/1 on funding, landmark decisions that represented a vote of confidence in UNDP. In adopting them, the Board had taken ownership of rebuilding the financial base of UNDP up to an annual level of $1.1 billion. In response, UNDP had committed itself to establishing an integrated system that would provide clearer and more comprehensive information on results as a means to generate the funding required to support its activities.

7. The main trends in the core funding situation of UNDP were outlined in document DP/1999/CRP.6. In terms of volume, the latest estimate was that total core resources for 1999, expressed in United States dollars, would be approximately $738 million, close to the income level of 1998. The strong dollar continued to be a key factor in the core resource situation. The impact of 1999 pledges in local currencies would be much higher if present exchange rates against the dollar were more favourable. For example, if the exchange rates of April 1997 were applied to the estimated contributions of 1999, the United States dollar equivalent would be $786 million, an increase of 4.7 per cent over 1998. The exchange rate situation underlined the crucial importance of being able to lock in the value of local currency pledges by making fuller use of hedge instruments in foreign exchange markets. That was a further reason to establish early and firm schedules of payments based on multi-year pledges.

8. He noted, in terms of reaching the target of $1.1 billion in core contributions, that for the first time in seven years, it was currently estimated that as many as 12 donors who were members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) were set to increase their contributions in local currencies in 1999 as compared with the previous year. While a number of programme countries had yet to confirm their 1999 pledges to core resources, so far eight had indicated increased contributions. Six OECD/DAC countries and 23 programme countries had confirmed that they would maintain their 1998 level of core pledges in local currency in 1999. Revised tables reflecting the discussions would be issued on 16 April.

9. In terms of enhancing predictability, 13 contributing countries had indicated multi-year pledges, 12 of them for both 2000 and 2001. Most multi-year indications were at least at the same level as in 1999, if not higher.

10. With regard to burden-sharing, a key issue to be discussed at the present meeting, the Administrator noted that there was still more to be achieved. Ten of the top donors to UNDP still accounted for 85 per cent of total core funds for 1999. The situation was further compounded by the fact that per capita contributions to UNDP core resources varied significantly from one donor to another.

11. The Administrator gave the Executive Board an update on the developments relating to the MYFF. The approach to results-based management was making steady, real and impressive progress. He had communicated with all resident representatives and, through them, to the national authorities of programme countries, outlining the core issues and the follow-up actions required by UNDP as a consequence of decisions 98/23 and 99/1. There had been a tremendous

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collective effort at UNDP headquarters and by pilot country offices to introduce the strategic results framework (SRF) that would serve as a basis for capturing UNDP performance. The new instrument had been put through a rigorous process of country-level testing and validation to ensure that it stood up as a practical, operational and useful tool. The SRFs had been introduced to country offices during early March through a series of regional workshops and UNDP was now fully mobilized in all regions. By early June, all UNDP country offices would have completed the SRF exercise that would feed into preparation of the draft MYFF in time for the third regular session 1999.

12. In response to the concerns of some delegations, the Administrator noted that UNDP was determined to avoid the overloading of country offices with new systems and tools and would even eliminate some of the existing tools that the SRF could replace.

13. To sum up, the Administrator stated that he had highlighted the key issues relating to UNDP funding as volume, predictability, and overdependence on several donors. He had also emphasized that UNDP was mobilizing itself to put a comprehensive system for reporting results in place. UNDP was now at a crossroads. There was shared responsibility through a partnership and compact with the Executive Board for the financial health of the organization. It was a responsibility owned by the Board and all members of the Programme. The opportunity must be seized to return the critical core base back to one of growth. The funding meeting presented an opportunity to discuss openly with one another the trends he had outlined. It was essential that all parties, together, use the opportunity to secure the financial future of UNDP.

Presentation by Director of Division for Resource Mobilization

14. The Director of the Division for Resource Mobilization, Bureau for Resources and External Affairs, gave a presentation on the findings contained in document DP/1999/CRP.6. He highlighted the areas of process, trends in volume, predictability, the importance of reducing dependence on a limited number of donors and took a look to the future. Copies of the information provided in his presentation were distributed to the Executive Board. The revised tables of contributions, reflecting statements made during the funding meeting, would be made available on 16 April.

Ministerial statements

15. The Minister of Planning of Benin noted the recent regional meeting of UNDP resident representatives held in Benin. His country was appreciative of the programmes of UNDP and its activities in sustainable development. He extended his gratitude to the Administrator and the new Associate Administrator. UNDP, of all the organizations, allowed Africa hope for genuine recovery despite the fact that it was a continent threatened by marginalization. The emphasis of UNDP on the human factor was of utmost importance, in particular because the organization focused on the grass-roots community. In order to fulfil its mission, including through work with the specialized agencies, UNDP needed resources. The new partnership regarding funding had created a climate of solidarity, in which UNDP had refined its objectives. UNDP must thus be strengthened through increased and predictable funding as a catalyst for development and as a champion of efficiency.

16. The Minister in Charge of Economic Development of Burkina Faso congratulated UNDP for its work. He emphasized the need for UNDP to have a predictable resource base to enable financial security in the organization. His country was enjoying economic growth yet was still vulnerable to economic downturns. A contribution to the core budget of UNDP of $50,000 would be made for 1999.

17. The Minister of Planning of Chad explained that the economic and environmental conditions in his country were not positive at the present time. Socio-economic indicators were also not favourable despite the potential provided by the country's natural resources. UNDP provided good assistance to his country. Chad would contribute $40,000 in core contributions, and $100,000 in government local office costs (GLOC).

18. The Minister of State, Office of the President of Kenya, underlined the positive cooperation of his country with UNDP in supporting the national development objectives and priorities of Kenya's National Development Plan and other planning instruments. He noted that UNDP had continued to support Kenya even when other bilateral and multilateral development partners had frozen their support. UNDP support had been particularly instrumental in the areas of poverty eradication, environment and natural resources management, education, and in combating HIV/AIDS. His delegation was concerned about the declining level of core resources available to UNDP and called on donors to increase substantially their allocations to the organization. Every effort would be made to provide and maintain the level of local cost contribution to UNDP. The contribution of Kenya would be announced once the normal budgetary process was completed.

19. The Minister of Finance, Economy and Planning of Senegal stated that his delegation was participating at the ministerial level to show appreciation for the work of UNDP. The organization had made significant contributions to poverty eradication and the strengthening of good governance in his country. His delegation was particularly concerned about the high levels of debt servicing that characterized some of the world's poorest countries and he hoped that members of the Group of Seven would work for continued debt-relief measures. He conveyed the offer of Senegal to host a meeting of the Executive Board at some point in the future. His country would contribute $20,000 to core resources in 1999 - 10 times more than in 1998 - and $280,000 in GLOC.

Statements by delegations

20. The Under-Secretary for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, praised the role of the Executive Board and UNDP in supporting net contributor countries. In particular, the approach that enabled a gradual move to net contributor status with consideration of the various incomes and levels of development of programme countries was welcomed. His delegation would like to see an increase in the allocation of core resources for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, with criteria such as levels of poverty, populations living in extreme poverty, housing and education levels that would reflect the varying levels of poverty within regions in countries. Programme countries in the region had increased the amount of resources available through cost-sharing, a mechanism that had played an important and complementary role in supplementing the core budgets. Argentina would contribute $500,000 to the core budget of UNDP and $800,000 in GLOC in 1999.

21. The representative of Australia underlined his delegation's support for the MYFF and satisfaction with the implementation of the new funding strategy to date. The pledging meeting was a first step in the implementation of the MYFF. He noted that in table 1 of document DP/1999/CRP.6, Australia's payment for 1997 had not come in time to be reflected for that year, thus highlighting the need for donors to make regular and timely payments. His delegation anticipated that the MYFF would provide a set of indicators to monitor progress in its programme and measurement of impact, thus allowing for UNDP and programme countries to draw on quantifiable measurements and lessons learned. UNDP faced the challenge of its role in the continued implementation of the Secretary-General's Track Two reforms. Australia would continue to monitor the leadership role of UNDP in the United Nations Development Group and in the resident coordinator system. There remained concern that UNDP must concentrate on where it had a real impact on development, given its limited resources.

22. The Deputy Director for Multilateral Development Cooperation of Austria announced that her Government's contribution to UNDP would be maintained at the same level for 1999-2001 with payments made on a fixed schedule. UNDP was at a turning point and provided a good contribution to global development. It was hoped that the results-based system would benefit the organization.

23. The Director of Multilateral Aid, Ministry for Development Cooperation of Belgium, confirmed his Government's contribution of 464 million Belgian francs to UNDP, an amount that reflected an increase over that of 1998. He looked forward to a discussion on non-core funding of UNDP at the annual session. Belgium supported the principle of multi-year funding but was unable to announce its contributions for future years at that time. His delegation supported the enhanced focus of UNDP on areas where it held a comparative advantage and looked forward to the reporting on results at future sessions.

24. The representative of Brazil noted that his country had graduated to net contributor status in January 1999. That fact had not reduced Brazil's interest and support for cooperation with UNDP. His country had one of the largest UNDP programmes, financed through cost-sharing, amounting to some $250 million, a factor that confirmed the importance given to UNDP activities. Brazil supported the MYFF, an important tool to catalyze resources and strengthen the role of UNDP in programme countries. Owing to Brazil's financial crisis and reduction of government budgets, discussions were still under way and his Government was unable so far to announce its contribution to UNDP core resources.

25. The representative of Bulgaria announced an increase of nine per cent in local currency in his Government's contribution to the UNDP core budget, as compared with 1998. GLOC would also be increased. At the current time, his delegation could not announce pledges for 2000 and 2001.

26. The Permanent Representative of Burundi expressed his country's gratitude for efforts of UNDP in poverty eradication and announced a core contribution of $10,000 for 1999.

27. The Director-General of the Multilateral Programme Branch, Canadian International Development Agency, Canada, announced that his country's core contribution for 1999 would be at the same level as that for 1998 in local currency terms with the full payment to be made by early April. The level of contribution would remain the same for 2000 and 2001. Canada's 1999 budget

allowed for a provisional increase for international organizations in 2000 for the first time in 10 years. As the MYFF developed, it was hoped that more positive funding results could be provided. Canada's maintenance of its contribution was concrete evidence of its commitment to the MYFF and to UNDP.

28. The Deputy Permanent Representative of China thanked UNDP for its able leadership and noted the assistance provided to his country by the organization. The representative announced that China would provide $3 million in core contribution to UNDP and $302,297 in GLOC for 1999. His Government would also contribute to the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE). He emphasized that the principles of neutrality, universality and multilateralism on which UNDP was based must not be compromised. Like other programme countries, China placed much importance on UNDP. It was hoped that all donors would join forces to reach the target for core contributions to UNDP. He noted that China provided government cost-sharing of some $10 million per year.

29. The Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic expressed his country's concern about the decline in UNDP core resources in recent years. He noted that an important governance project in the Eastern and Central European region on democracy, governance and participation had been postponed owing to lack of funding, a factor that had led his Government to support the project directly through re-directing part of its 1999 core contribution to UNDP. The resultant decrease of the Czech Republic's contribution in 1999 was also due to exchange rate fluctuations. While a decrease was announced for 1999, the Czech Republic would increase its contributions to UNDP core resources for the years 2000 and 2001. Payment for 1999 would be made by the end of April.

30. The representative of Denmark stated that his intervention would be brief. He thanked the secretariat for preparing document DP/1999/CRP.6. The paper reported a 1.7 per cent decline in 1999 pledges compared to contributions received in 1998. That meant that UNDP would be at two thirds of the $1.1 billion target. As for the Danish contribution, he could not at that point confirm the figure of 575 million Danish kroner reported by UNDP in document DP/1999/CRP.6. The figure was, as stated in the conference room paper, "UNDP's best estimate". For the time being, the size of Denmark's contribution as reported in document DP/1999/CRP.6 must be described as the best-case scenario. The UNDP paper concluded on an optimistic note, stating that "by the end of the year, the recent downward trend should have stopped". That was an expression of hope and unfortunately not an expression of fact. The Government of Denmark fully shared that hope. The representative of Denmark's authorities most sincerely hoped that they would soon have all the necessary elements to reach a positive decision on the Danish contributions for 1999, 2000, and 2001. He thanked the President.

31. The Permanent Representative of Ethiopia underlined the uncertainty for programme countries created by the shortfall in UNDP funding. The situation in those countries became more critical as they dealt with the challenges presented by globalization. As a programme country, Ethiopia would do as much as possible to support UNDP and commended those donors that had increased their contributions. UNDP was a unique development organization whose continued

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services, reliant on the bedrock of core funding, were needed, especially for the least developed countries.

32. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland announced a contribution to UNDP core resources in 1999 of 65 million Finnish Markka ($11.7 million), an increase of 5 per cent over 1998 in local currency terms. The increase was in appreciation for the development of the MYFF. In addition to the core contribution, Finland would also contribute to UNIFEM and the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO), at the same levels as in 1998. Payments would be made by the end of April 1999. His Government could not yet make multi-year pledges.

33. The Deputy Permanent Representative of France confirmed that his Government would contribute 100 million French francs (15.25 million euros) to UNDP core resources in 1999. He noted that it was the first time in five years that France had increased its contribution to UNDP and that it was a substantial increase. The payment would be made in full by the end of April 1999. The motivation for the increased contribution and the early payment was clear, as his delegation wished to confirm its support for the new UNDP funding strategy. The MYFF, in particular, demonstrated the major potential for enhancing UNDP performance and transparency of action. The strategy would build the confidence of members of UNDP and provide a means to generate financial resources. It was important to note that the funding meeting was only one stage in the new process that would be completed with the introduction of the MYFF in September 1999. That would be a decisive stage because the quality of the MYFF would affect the capacity of his Government to mobilize resources. Future contributions from his Government would depend on budgetary capacity and the future decisions on the MYFF. The future of UNDP rested on the capacity to create conditions of true political support, enabling the mobilization of resources for its activities. More than ever, it was necessary to explain to various audiences that links would be made between security and stability on the one hand, and economic and social development on the other. In that context, the role of UNDP, at a time of reform in both bilateral and multilateral aid organizations, must be clearly defined. He noted that France had begun a broad assessment of its development assistance, an exercise that had already led to large-scale reforms. A similar assessment of the relationship between France and multilateral organizations was currently under way. In May 1999, there would be a colloquium in the French Parliament on the subject, with the opportunity for UNDP to submit information on its actions and unique role among multilateral development agencies.

34. The Head of Department, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, stated that his Government would continue to pay its contribution in four equal installments per calendar year. Owing to the change in government, determination of the 1999 budget process in Germany would be concluded only by 1 June. In the meantime, he could announce that, subject to parliamentary approval, Germany would contribute 75 million deutsche mark to the UNDP core budget in 1999. Despite the uncertainty of its contribution, his Government had tried to avoid any impact on the predictability of funding and had paid as much as possible of its planned contribution on schedule, with payments to be adjusted upon finalization of the budgetary process. Germany could not yet indicate its contributions for 2000 and 2001.

35. The Director of the Multilateral International Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance of Ghana noted that the new funding strategy was the

first effort to reverse the downward trend in funding of UNDP with the goal of placing core resources on a predictable basis. He noted that Ghana would increase its contribution to UNDP in 2000 by 25 per cent over its 1999 contribution and in 2001 by 20 per cent over its 2000 contribution. Ghana reaffirmed its commitment to meeting its GLOC payments in full. Donors would need to do more to achieve the funding target set by the Executive Board. The Administrator would be requested to consider ways to address the shortfalls that would affect low-income and least developed countries. The Director noted that in recent years the Board had increased its demands on UNDP, both at headquarters and at the country level, a factor that affected government staff in programme countries as well. Ghana proposed that a table of commitments be made available at the third regular session of each year so that the Board would receive confirmation that the funds pledged at the second regular session had been received.

36. The representative of Guatemala supported the need to strengthen UNDP financially and commended the effort to place UNDP finances on a multi-year basis. Guatemala believed the developed countries should finance UNDP and was concerned about the limited number of donors. Her country's contribution took account of three elements: solidarity with least developed countries, contribution to GLOC, and cost-sharing.

37. The representative of India confirmed his Government's contribution of $4.5 million, a figure that included GLOC payments, for the year 1999; India intended to contribute the same amount for 2000 and 2001. He noted that India's contribution was higher than a few major OECD/DAC donors and represented 17 per cent of contributions to the core budget of UNDP by non-DAC donors. His delegation praised those countries that had increased their contributions to UNDP, in particular programme countries, and hoped that the downward trend in core funding would soon end. It should now be possible to implement Executive Board decision 98/23 and meet the target of $1.1 billion in annual core contributions to UNDP. His delegation hoped that future sessions would examine the nature and causes of shortfalls and include decisions by the Executive Board on the most effective means to redress them.

38. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that putting resources on a sustainable and predictable basis has been a difficult exercise. His delegation hoped that traditional donors would increase their contributions to UNDP. Owing to the decline in commodity prices, in particular oil prices, his Government would maintain its contribution in local currency terms at the 1998 level, an amount of 450 million Iranian rials.

39. The Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations announced a 10 per cent increase in his Government's core contribution to UNDP in 1999, already paid in full, an amount that would be maintained in 2000 and 2001. The contribution represented his country's commitment to multilateralism and to UNDP, an organization that was at the forefront of reform. He noted that if the previous year's exchange rate had been used, then there would have been an increase of 1.2 per cent in overall UNDP core resources. The increases by 12 of the OECD/DAC donors and eight programme countries represented faith in the organization. It was hoped that others would join them in increased contributions later in the year. He underlined that the Executive Board and UNDP, now at the beginning of a process, must redouble their efforts. He

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requested that in the future more information be presented on per capita contributions by Governments to UNDP.

40. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy announced an increase in his country's core contribution to UNDP and to UNFPA for 1999. For UNDP, the voluntary contribution would be 22 billion lire, an approximate 15 per cent increase over 1998, and for UNFPA the contribution would be 6 billion lire, an increase of approximately 150 per cent over 1998. Commitments for 2000 and 2001 could not yet be confirmed, but it was likely that Italy would maintain its contribution at the 1999 level. A voluntary contribution of 5.8 billion lire would be made to UNIFEM, an increase of 5.4 billion lire as compared with 1998. The Government of Italy had strengthened its commitment to the United Nations development cooperation activity as part of an overall policy of significantly increasing its official development assistance for 1999. With regard to UNDP, Italy expected further efforts to broaden the donor base through greater involvement with the private sector.

41. The Assistant Director for Multilateral Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, stated that his Government had been implementing a new development strategy that emphasized partnership and government ownership. His Government appreciated cooperation with UNDP, in particular in Africa and through the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) process. Japan was committed to supporting UNDP as the manager of the resident coordinator system, the chair of the United Nations Development Group, and in its role of leading the coordination of United Nations development activities at the country level through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Japan would contribute $80 million in 1999, a slight increase as compared with 1998. While he could not yet announce pledges for future years, he noted that his Government would make every effort to ensure a secure contribution to UNDP in 2000 and 2001.

42. The representative of Jordan announced a contribution of 191,000 Jordanian dinars (approximately $265,000) to UNDP for 1999. In addition, a contribution of 225,000 Jordanian dinars (approximately $300,000) would be paid in GLOC.

43. The Permanent Representative of Lesotho expressed appreciation for the role of the United Nations in promoting development, in particular for least developed countries. An early indication of pledges for its 1999-2000 financial year was 26,000 maloti ($4,500) to the core budget, 360,000 maloti in GLOC and 106,508 maloti in local contribution (a total of 466,508 maloti in local costs, which in dollar terms was $77,750). The pledged amounts for 1999 were firm for 2000 and 2001, with the hope of an increase if possible. In the future, Lesotho would express its core contributions in dollar terms.

44. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Executive Board that his Government was currently re-orienting its official development assistance with a view to greater geographical and thematic concentration and more efficient implementation of programmes. He noted that multilateral aid had the potential of becoming more efficient and effective than bilateral aid. His Government was pleased with the shift to results-based budgeting in UNDP and looked forward to the finalization of the MYFF, which would give a basis on which to learn and evaluate. The MYFF reflected a new partnership within the Board. However, he noted that dependence on a few donors was detrimental to the organization's funding situation. UNDP had demonstrated positive cooperation

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with the World Bank and was to be commended for its efforts to achieve maximum complementarity. However, recent developments such as the International Development Association (IDA) 12 replenishment and the Comprehensive Development Framework represented major challenges. Other mechanisms, such as the Global Trust Fund, should be treated with a certain amount of caution and examined for added value. The Netherlands was in the process of assessing the performance of UNDP, in particular at the country level. Until that exercise was completed and discussed with the Administrator, his Government could not maintain its 1998 levels of contribution to core and non-core resources, a total of $126 million. For 1999, the Netherlands would contribute $75 million to the core budget in 12 monthly installments, an amount that would still account for 10 per cent of the UNDP core budget. The Netherlands might decide to raise its contribution to its 1998 level by the end of the year, depending, first, on the outcome of its assessment of UNDP performance in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other United Nations partners, and second, on UNDP performance and coordination at the country level. Pending the outcome of its assessment, likely by the end of the summer, the Netherlands could not pledge for subsequent years but hoped to be able to do so by the end of the year since it subscribed to the idea of multi-year funding. The Government of the Netherlands had a political commitment to a target of 0.8 per cent of gross national product to Official Development Assistance.

45. The Permanent Representative of Norway stated that his country had traditionally been a strong supporter of the United Nations. It had seen a role and a need for the system but in recent years also a necessity of reforming it, to ensure its continued relevance. Despite reforms undertaken, financing of development continued to be an issue of concern, as the reforms agreed on were not sufficiently extensive. In UNDP, however, there had been progress, as evidenced by the funding meeting. The current year could be seen as a transition year since the MYFF had not yet been completely established. The funding of UNDP needed to be safeguarded to enable the organization to carry out its mandate of creating conditions for sustainable human development. Norway's contribution was contained in document DP/1999/CRP.6. He noted that in 1998, Norway's share of the total core contributions to UNDP stood at just below 10 per cent and firm payment schedules had been followed. The current year's pledge would be maintained at approximately the same amount for the years 2000 and 2001, subject to parliamentary approval. His delegation was concerned about the issue of reliance on a small number of donors and hoped that once the MYFF was in place, under-performing donors would increase their contributions.

46. The Joint Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance of Pakistan, in noting the longstanding partnership between her country and UNDP, stated that the strength of UNDP lay in its constant endeavours to achieve sustainable development in line with country-driven priorities. The activities and programmes in Pakistan were highly relevant to the country's development priorities. The strong shift to national ownership through national execution as a UNDP modality was a welcome step. Moreover, the work of UNDP in supporting the United Nations system as a whole was also very valuable. Pakistan thus reaffirmed its support for UNDP, both moral and financial. While the MYFF was likely to yield results, Pakistan was deeply concerned about the present trend of declining contributions to UNDP core resources. The voluntary contribution of Pakistan to UNDP core resources in 1999 would be 24.40 million Pakistan rupees, the same amount as paid in 1998. It would be available in the first week of May 1999. Pakistan was considering raising its voluntary contribution

by 10 per cent in the fiscal year 1999-2000. In addition, Pakistan had decided to donate an area of land at the current value of $1 million for the United Nations House in Islamabad. Pakistan's contribution to GLOC had been 11.035 Pakistan rupees for the years 1997 through 1999.

47. The Director-General, Department of International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, expressed concern about the recent decline in UNDP core resources, a trend that must be reversed. Overdependence on a few donors was a risk. Paraguay would continue to contribute to the core budget of UNDP with timely payments. National efforts to support the MYFF had been increased.

48. The Permanent Representative of Peru underlined the usefulness of UNDP activities in his country, efforts that had helped to strengthen economic and social reforms in Peru and that could be utilized as models for other countries. He commended the work of the Executive Board, in particular the creation of the new funding system that would provide a more transparent and dynamic dialogue and greater predictability in resource flows. Peru would contribute $500,000 to the core budget of UNDP in 1999.

49. The representative of the Philippines confirmed his Government's contribution of approximately $500,000 to UNDP for 1999. He noted that while many programme countries had increased in their contributions to UNDP, his delegation believed that major donors should make the real difference in increasing funding to UNDP. Enhancing the core resources of UNDP depended on many factors, including efficiency at the country level as well as a recommitment by members of the Programme to support the organization.

50. The representative of Poland underlined her country's strong support of operational activities in the United Nations. Poland had established a "know-how" fund to channel development assistance and experience-sharing to other countries with economies in transition. She noted that the UNDP office in Poland had an important role, in particular in capacity-building for European integration, social security reform and social and economic development in the region of upper Silesia. Poland would contribute 1.5 million zlotys ($400,000) to the core budget of UNDP in 1999, and $200,000 in GLOC. Steady increases had been made in Poland's contribution to UNDP since 1997.

51. The representative of Portugal praised the contributions of UNDP and UNFPA in poverty eradication. Her delegation noted the unique role played by UNDP thanks to its development objectives and technical expertise. Portugal had made modest but steady increases to the core budget of UNDP in recent years and would contribute $1.6 million in 1999.

52. The representative of the Republic of Korea noted that the figures presented to the Executive Board in document DP/1999/CRP.6 might not have met the full expectations of the Board but there were positive signs. His delegation stressed that the success of the MYFF lay in the linkage between results and funding. For 1999, he announced a contribution of $2.25 million to be made by the end of June 1999. His Government would do its utmost to increase its contribution in 2000 and 2001.

53. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation praised the changes in the funding system of United Nations operational activities, noting

the greater focus and rationalization of programmes in the United Nations, UNDP, and UNFPA. Despite a complex situation in the Russian Federation relating to the recent global economic crisis, his Government wished to support UNDP by maintaining in 1999-2001 the same level of contribution as that in 1998. The figures would, however, depend on the outcome of discussions on the national budget and were subject to confirmation.

54. The representative of Spain informed the Executive Board that his delegation was unable to make a formal statement on his Government's contribution to UNDP. Nevertheless, he underlined that the new funding process had been welcomed by his Government and a special unit had been created to handle contributions to all United Nations funds and programmes under the multi-year funding system. By the following year, all United Nations funds and programmes would have information as of the first month of every fiscal year on the amounts to be contributed and funds would be dispersed according to a fixed timetable. His delegation gave an indicative pledge of $5.25 million to UNDP for 1999.

55. The Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, emphasized that the funding process was still at the beginning stage since other parts of the MYFF were not yet in place. The present session was an initial step that would hopefully reverse the negative trend in core funding as well as set a path for a steady increase in resources to meet the target of $1.1 billion in core funding per annum. The process in developing the MYFF was impressive with true participation at both headquarters and the country level. In that regard, Sweden supported the greater involvement of the Executive Board and other members of the Programme through the participation in a serious dialogue not only at the third regular session 1999 but also among capitals as the process advanced. Sweden would be a very active partner in that dialogue. It was regrettable that so few donors could announce multi-year pledges and also that some contributions had decreased in dollar terms. However, it was encouraging that 12 OECD/DAC donors had increased their contributions for 1999. Sweden had increased its contribution (490 Swedish kronor/$60 million) by more than four per cent for 1999 yet it was recorded as a decrease of one per cent in dollar terms owing to currency fluctuations, a factor also affecting its 1997 and 1998 contributions. Sweden intended to contribute the same amount in 2000 and 2001, subject to parliamentary approval. The decision in September on the first MYFF would help to increase and stabilize the resource situation. If the downward trend was broken, then an important first step had been taken. The momentum must be maintained without complacency.

56. The representative of Switzerland informed the Executive Board that his Government had maintained its contribution to UNDP core resources in recent years at 56 million Swiss francs. It had not been easy to maintain support for the contribution while other major donors had decreased their funding. In that regard, he noted that Switzerland had supported a disproportionate share of the UNDP core contributions if an analysis were done according to gross national product/capita. Specific contributions to the strengthening of the resident coordinator system and to country-level activities had also been made by his Government. The contribution of Switzerland for 1999 would be announced in a few weeks. He could not rule out a decrease in his country's contribution. Switzerland was of the view that better burden-sharing among donors was required and his delegation hoped that the reversal in the downward trend of UNDP financing would be realized. If better balance among donor contribution was not

seen, it would then be necessary for the Board to give further thought to the future role of UNDP.

57. The representative of Thailand expressed his delegation's hope that the target of $1.1 billion in core contributions would be met. Exchange rate fluctuations, beyond control, had a strong bearing on the actual amount of resources available for development activities. Programme countries had demonstrated their commitment to UNDP through their contributions, despite economic difficulties. In 1999, Thailand would contribute $665,000 to the core budget of UNDP and 15.5 million baht in GLOC, representing an increase in contribution as compared with 1998. His delegation underlined the need for large donors to do more to demonstrate their commitment to development, in accordance with their ability, allowing a lessening of the burden on programme countries.

58. The Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan expressed her country's gratitude to UNDP and UNFPA and announced a core contribution to UNDP of $3,000.

59. The Deputy Director of the United Nations and Commonwealth Division, Department of International Development, United Kingdom, stated that his Government was fully committed to playing an active and major role in UNDP and UNFPA, and to further development of its relationship with those agencies that had a key role in poverty elimination and sustainable development. The Deputy Director thanked UNDP for the information it had provided to the meeting and noted the several examples contained in the paper relating to both the positive and the less positive signals seen in the initial process of the new funding strategy. The voluntary contribution of the United Kingdom for 1999 would be 35 million pounds sterling, an increase by over 16 per cent compared to 1998. The commitment would in future be for rolling, three-year periods, thus demonstrating commitment to the long-term development programmes of UNDP. The United Kingdom would offer a multi-year base of 35 million pounds sterling for the years 2000 and 2001, amounting to a total commitment of 105 million pounds sterling for 1999-2001 (approximately $170 million). Supplementary funding would be carefully targeted. The firm and long-term commitment to UNDP emanated from the confidence held in the organization, support for integrated, results-based budgeting and commitment to improvement of country-level coordination, and support to building partnerships, such as those with the Bretton Woods institutions. The United Kingdom would look to successive results-oriented annual reports as one of the key bases for setting future levels of support to the core budget of UNDP. In particular, his delegation would look for improved assessment of the organization's performance and impact, contributions to poverty eradication and to other key United Nations goals and targets, cooperation in moving the Secretary-General's wider reform agenda ahead, and contribution to improving the coherence of the United Nation system as a whole, in pursuit of international development.

60. The Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, United Republic of Tanzania, emphasized the importance of the neutrality and impartiality of UNDP. A stable resource situation must be restored so that UNDP could carry out its beneficial activities, in particular in fighting HIV/AIDS and in creating sustainable livelihoods. His country's core contribution for 1999 (of $50,718) represented a major increase in dollar terms. In addition, his country would pay its outstanding GLOC payments in 1999.

61. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States expressed her Government's commitment to UNDP, whose work complemented that of bilateral donors. UNDP was a powerful force in capacity-building. The United States would increase its contribution in 1999 to $100 million. While the amount of pledges for 2000 and 2001 could not yet be confirmed, she noted that the budget for 2000 included a request for $80 million in core contributions to UNDP. The decrease was not a reflection of decreased confidence in the organization. She underscored the positive regard of her Government for the multi-year funding framework being set up by UNDP and stated that related reporting requirements should not place an undue burden at the country level. Conversion to a results-based approach in UNDP could be frustrating at times, she noted, but it was imperative to have that approach in order to attract resources. It was especially important that the results-based approach be supported at the country level.

62. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations welcomed and supported the measures taken to ensure the resource base of UNDP. His delegation hoped that all donors would increase their contributions to the organization, thus restoring growth and predictability. Although economic conditions in Asia had been difficult in recent years, Viet Nam had decided to increase its 1999 core contribution to UNDP by 8 per cent.

Responses by delegations

63. The President opened the floor for any delegations that wished to make further comments or to respond to comments made during the discussion.

64. The representative of France underlined that the Executive Board was at the beginning of a process that was aimed at stabilizing the core resource situation of UNDP and reaching the objective of $1.1 billion in core contributions. His delegation welcomed the increased contributions from programme countries and recognized the presence of many African ministers at the meeting. He emphasized that donors must look to the future and try collectively to reach the goal set by the Board. To reach that objective, each donor must assume its own responsibility and try to increase their contribution or at least maintain it. He noted the great dependence on a small number of donors. However, of 21 major donors, it was noted that 18 were increasing their contributions, a very positive trend.

65. The Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, stated that the meeting was a good start in the process of the new funding strategy and there was reason for cautious optimism. There had been a very positive response from programme countries and a growing sense of partnership as well as sense of common responsibility for UNDP. The Executive Board could thus build on the sense of partnership emanating from the discussion of the organization's resources for the first time in its history. It was hoped that the multi-year funding framework would provide a sound basis on which to deepen the discussion at next year's funding meeting.

66. The Deputy Director of the United Nations and Commonwealth Division, Department of International Development of the United Kingdom, stated that he was encouraged by the outcome of the first funding meeting. It had demonstrated a real sense of partnership. The pledges of funding support to UNDP and other expressions of commitment gave a strong vote of confidence to the staff and to

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the Administrator. In that regard, the Administrator and staff of UNDP deserved to be congratulated for their preparations for the meeting. The United Kingdom looked forward to the continued work in the Board of the multi-year funding framework process, including further positive dialogue as exemplified at the current meeting.

Concluding remarks

67. The Administrator expressed his genuine appreciation for the funding commitments made and the positive comments about UNDP as well as the spirit of partnership seen at the meeting. There was cause for optimism, seen in the first tentative steps taken together in the current transitional year. As the Executive Board and UNDP moved forward with a results-oriented framework, members of UNDP should also move forward to secure a funding basis for the organization in order to achieve the $1.1 billion target. UNDP continued to depend on the Board's leadership to implement the decisions taken on the new funding strategy. He noted that declining levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) seemed to be in reversal. He urged countries that were not increasing ODA to consider increasing the proportion of ODA going to UNDP. The major donor countries must carry a larger share of contributions if UNDP was to meet the Board's target. For its part, UNDP would do everything to make it possible to meet the target by fulfilling its obligations within the MYFF process.

68. The Administrator noted that programme countries had demonstrated great commitment at the present meeting and many OECD/DAC donors had made significant commitments for the current and future years. Programme countries had stated that UNDP was producing results already. He hoped that their vote of confidence inspired the Executive Board as it did the secretariat. He expressed his gratitude to the work of the secretariat in preparing the meeting and to the Board for its guidance. While some optimism could be felt, there was still a way to go. He counted on the Board to work with UNDP to move to the $1.1 billion target. He recognized the proposal by Sweden for an intense dialogue on the funding process and asked the Board to work with UNDP to bring the dialogue to the parliamentary and ministerial levels, where commitments could be gained. In conclusion, while it was a huge challenge, there was some cause for optimism if all cooperated closely.

69. The President noted the large number of participants and the high-level representation at the first funding meeting of the Executive Board. He also recognized the ministers and ambassadors who had come to express their support for UNDP. Many delegations demonstrated that a positive trend was emerging in that they had announced increases in their contributions to UNDP. Many Governments had also made a special effort to ensure predictability through multi-year pledges and early payment of contribution. He noted a renewed spirit of partnership among donor and programme countries as well as between members of the Programme and the UNDP secretariat. However, much more was required to achieve the target of $1.1 billion as well as fairer burden-sharing among donors. Today, there was optimism about the future of UNDP in view of the interest shown for increased and predictable funding for a reinforced UNDP. He extended his congratulations to the Administrator and to his staff for the intensive efforts made to reform and reorganize UNDP. It was now an

organization that responded more effectively to the needs of programme countries and focused its activities where it was most effective and most needed.

Note: See chapter IX, paragraph 132 on UNFPA resource mobilization for some additional pledges made to UNFPA.
